HISTORY OF ASTORIA
U.F.K.B.&S. LODGE NO. 2

Translation from Finnish 50-year history, printed in 1937

The Astoria Finnish Brotherhood Lodge was established on December 6, 1886. Herein is a brief history of the Lodge and of the Finns who settled in Astoria and the Northwest in general.

About 1850-60, the first Finns began arriving in San Francisco, California, the earliest among them presumably coming as seamen during the gold rush. Soon thereafter, the emigration of Finns from their native land to California began, and many of the Finns who had settled earlier in the Midwest also headed for the Pacific Coast. Later some of these Finnish seamen migrated north to Astoria, which was still in the very early stages of its development. Salmon fishing to a certain degree had already been started.

Many of these Finns, sensing the possibilities of a good future in the fishing industry on the Columbia River remained in Astoria for the summer fishing season and returned to San Francisco to spend the winter. Those who had been fishermen in Finland found it attractive to follow the same trade in Astoria and, since salmon fishing looked promising, word soon spread to other Finnish communities and to their native country. Immigrants from Finland began coming directly to Astoria. The first of these came in a roundabout way, however, first by rail to San Francisco and thence by ship to Astoria. The first transcontinental railroad was completed in April, 1869.

The date of the arrival of the first Finns in Astoria has not been definitely established although it is known to be about 1870. Neither do we know for sure who these first Finns were, but according to the best information available, among those who came via San Francisco in 1870 were: Jacob Poikajoki, Salo; Abram E. Efraimson, Kustavi; Erick Piterson (Seppala), Muhos; John Hendrickson, Pattijoki; Charles Newman, Liminka; John Pakanen, Ii; Gabriel Karvonen, Pattijoki, and others.

One of the largest migrations to arrive in Astoria occurred in 1873 when almost thirty people came from Erie, Pennsylvania. Many of them exerted considerable influence in the progress of the community and became charter members of the Astoria Brotherhood Lodge, among them Antti Kari, Jacob Kaski, Jacob Kaukonen, and Emanuel Maunula. By 1879 several hundred Finns had settled in Astoria and its vicinity. The census of 1870 showed a population of 1255 in Clatsop County.

Although there was a sizeable Finnish population in Astoria by 1880, nothing had been done toward organizing social activities and only the so-called "boarding houses" offered some a place for social and civic contacts. By this time some of the fishermen had endeavored to carry on business ventures in between fishing seasons, and others had gone into the apparently more lucrative saloon business. But social activity increased as the settlement became more firmly established. Churches and a temperance society were organized, but even these did not wholly satisfy a segment of the Finnish people who sensed the need of an organization which would serve the needs of the tightly-knit group of immigrants—an organization which would offer them some material guarantees and a possibility for social and cultural activity in keeping with the customs of their own people. They were concerned with the economic insecurity of the community and with the welfare of those who, because of the great temptations to spend money in various forms of recreation, were unable to save. When illness or death occurred they were forced to turn to their fellowmen for help. The Finns wanted to care for the needs of their own unfortunates rather than turn them over to governmental welfare organizations, especially since they were not yet citizens of the United States. These were the reasons that prompted the thoughtful Finns to consider means for alleviating some of the unfortunate conditions which existed at that time.

Earlier, in San Francisco, some of these people had experienced similar difficulties. It was there that a sickness- and funeral-benefit association had been organized which proved to be quite successful. Some members of the San Francisco lodge had come to Astoria and were helpful in the organization of a similar lodge in Astoria with the purpose that its members might, in the event of sickness or death, receive aid without having to resort to government agencies.

There were many doubting Thomases who feared such an organization would not succeed, and several years passed before some of the more determined Finns could establish the lodge.

On December 6, 1886, an organizational meeting was held, but it was not until the following January that the first regular meeting convened at which fifty charter members joined. The saloon business, which prospered well, had built a dance hall in Uniontown. This later was acquired by the newly organized Temperance Society, and it was in this hall, which was called "Töyttilä", that the lodge began to formulate its constitution and by-laws.

The roster of the charter membership is incomplete because the old books of the lodge and with them much information which would have been invaluable in compiling its history were lost in the Astoria fire in 1922. But some significant facts have been learned from notes and memoranda, together with the recollections of charter members, among them Antti Myllyoja. They are simple and modest statements relating to their experiences in this social endeavor. The following are those of whom we do have knowledge as being among those first members: Alexander Allen, Jacob Hannuksela, August Makela, Jacob Kaski, Emanuel Maunula, Charles Larson, Axel Coorlud (Coorlund?), Jacob Kaukonen, Jacob Moore, Matti Niemela, John Jackson (Niemela), Herman Strom, Heikki Hoviin, John Parpala, Antti Myllyoja, Antti Kari (Vasankari?), John Holmstrom, John S. Hendrickson, Andrew Perry, John Bell, Andrew Eskola, Matt Hakala, Fred Hannila, J.W. Heikura, Aleks Holman, Charles Korpela, J. Kamppinen, Gabriel Karvonen, August Luukas, John Mustik, H.E. Nikander, Olli Suopankki, Albert Saikka, John Saikka, John Tokola, Gust Wilson, John Wilson, Jacob Wilson, Victor Anderson, Matti Anderson Kerttula, Andrew Anderson, Charles Rappi and Kalle Makitalo.

We cannot fully comprehend the sacrifices and determination which must have been necessary in the formative period of the lodge. We can, however, be confident in the knowledge that this movement was not motivated by any thought of personal gain other than some measure of security in sickness or death. The welfare of kindred souls was uppermost in their minds. This is evidenced by the preamble to the constitution, still in use today, in which the lodge is dedicated to Brotherhood, Benevolence, Equality and Love. These ideals became the cornerstone of the organization and have proved valid for all time as the *highest spiritual* principles of the lodge.

Since little was known by these Finns about the expected costs of sickness and funerals, the compiling of material for a constitution and by-laws became an extremely difficult task. Former members of the San Francisco lodge were able to give suggestions based on their earlier experiences, and the final result was that most of the organization was patterned after the San Francisco lodge. That the Finns in their new homeland had become very democratic is reflected in the by-laws. The success of this early venture, whether the credit was due to those from San Francisco or from Astoria, or both, is evidenced by the long history of service to their fellowmen.

In formulating the constitution and by-laws, it was recognized that, without protection against the infringement of political and religious beliefs of the individuals, the organization could not survive—hence the stipulation that discussions of a political or religious nature in the meetings would not be tolerated. Members of any religious faith or political belief could thus become members without fear of intolerance or embarrassment. The decision was prompted by the feeling that individual beliefs and faiths, when promulgated in lodge meetings, could and probably would soon destroy the very foundations of equality on which the organization was based. Large political groups such as we have now were not known at that time, and this very fact testifies to the foresight of the founders. Therefore the lodge has been able to keep its original purpose intact and has thereby attracted individuals with different points of view.

The primary principle in the by-laws states that: The purpose of this lodge is to help the sick and needy members, to provide burial for deceased members, and also to promote and enhance the reputation of the members and of the Finns in general. Sickness and funeral benefits were specifically mandated in the by-laws.

It appears certain that the Astoria Lodge was established December 6, 1886, since the treasurer's books of that time showed receipts of $412.50 on that date. This amount most likely came from membership fees. This was perhaps the meeting in which the first members were approved and they elected as officers the following: Charles Larson, president; Jacob Moore, vice-president; Walter Helmstrom, secretary; Gust Makela, financial secretary and Emanuel Maunula, treasurer. Fifty members joined at this meeting and thus the foundation of the Astoria Lodge was laid.

The following meeting was held in January 1887, at which time the proposed constitution was apparently approved, so that the application for state incorporation papers could be made. In fact, records in the State Capitol, Salem, Oregon, show that the incorporation papers were recorded there on January 13, 1887.

The lodge by its very nature was Finnish in character. Its programming was arranged to suit the needs of the Finnish people, and the early members had every intention to keep it so. The Constitution provided that only Finnish-speaking people could become members and that these must be able to read and write the Finnish language, which is still the language of the lodge. The opening paragraph of the Constitution read: "To this organization may join people of irreproachable reputation, not under 18 nor over 45 years of age, who have been certified by a physician as being well, and who believe in God as the ruler of the world."

The original initiation fee has not been determined, but it was decided later to be $10, and the monthly dues were to be $1. Sick benefits were to be $1 for the first week and $9 per week for a maximum of thirty weeks per calendar year, providing the claim was based on the original illness or injury. Six month's membership was required before one could apply for benefits.

Although the dues were very low, it was felt that the six-month's waiting period before application for benefits would allow the growth of cash assets from which assistance benefits could be safely withdrawn. Of great help was the large influx of members initially and later. The new lodge's growth was hampered somewhat by outside critics, as often happens with newly-created lodges.

No decision was made on the number of years benefits would be paid to a member. The lodge was even obligated to care for members with chronic ailments until they were able to resume work, or died. As time went on, the lodge found itself caring for members for decades. In addition to the sick benefits, the lodge paid a funeral benefit, which was $60 at that time.

The founding members were not to be deterred from their worthy objectives and continued to work with fortitude and courage. The early members seem to have been quite healthy, as evidenced by the fact that the first benefit was not paid until August, 1887, when $9 was paid to John Wilson. Some time later, a claim of $18 was paid to E. Maunula. According to old members, a fee of fifty cents was assessed whenever a member died.

Other means, such as programs, were used to help fill the

treasury. Among the first were outdoor events. A memo left by Antti Myllyoja says that the first field event was held August 2, 1887, in Ilwaco. The members traveled to and from Ilwaco in the palatial side-wheeler passenger ship *T.J. Potter*. It seems that a large crowd must have boarded the vessel, for when they went to the bow on the upperdeck, the ship began to settle. This created a panic, which could not have been very serious since the party continued on to Ilwaco. The Brotherhood program evidently received considerable support as the profits for the day were $25.70.

Lodge meetings were held in the J.C. Ross hall, for which a rental of $6 per month was paid. Dr. O.B. Estes was elected lodge physician with a salary of $100 per year for the purpose of examining candidates for membership and, perhaps, for treating minor ailments of the members.

The year 1888, the second since the founding of the organization, found the lodge facing a heavy financial burden. The first death among the members claimed H. Rahkola in July, for which a funeral benefit of $60.30 was paid. During the year, a total of $825 in sick benefits and $221.30 in funeral benefits resulted in a dangerous depletion of the treasury. This fact called for a serious appraisal of the possibilities of continuing the work of the order.

By this time, however, the lodge had affirmed its purposes to give brotherly assistance to its members. It began to gain strength from an increasingly favorable attitude among the Finns and others in the community. More and more began to recognize the economic as well as the moral and spiritual help offered by the lodge. These values have been immeasurable to those early members, as they continue to be today.

There were members who felt that the returns, immediate and otherwise, from the lodge were not enough. For instance, one early member felt that, since hospital costs were $9 per week and the lodge benefits were $9 per week, there was nothing left for the individual.

Fishing on the Columbia had become an important industry, and Astoria was becoming known as its center. The Finns, too, began to consider the possibility of building a cannery. As mentioned earlier, a group of Finns arrived in Astoria from Erie, Pennsylvania, in 1873. Their leader was Aksel Seaborg, who had been a railroad foreman in that state. It was he who became the first Finnish founder of a salmon cannery on the Columbia. As the fishing industry developed, so did the social life of the community and that of the Brotherhood.

Even though this second year in the history of the lodge seems to have been one of trial and tribulation, much comfort was received from the mutual understanding which existed between the San Francisco and Astoria lodges. Members migrating between the two communities received aid from the local lodge which served as a representative of the other, and this cooperative action had a strengthening effect on the Astoria lodge.

In 1888 the membership totaled 62, which was only a slight increase over the charter membership. Five lodge members died.

At this time, the Finnish language newspaper "uusi Kotimaa" (New Homeland) was being published in Astoria, serving the need for general and local news, advertising and printing, as well as dissemination of lodge information to the public.

What were perhaps the first rules of the Astoria Lodge were made available for purposes of this history. This copy was printed in 1891, several years after the founding of the lodge. It lists the names of the 132 members under the heading: "Finnish Brotherhood membership as of February, 1891." The following is a translation of the preamble to the Constitution:

"OREGON FINNISH BROTHERHOOD NO. 1
CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES
Astoria, Oregon. Financed by the lodge.

"PREAMBLE.

"In the year 1887, a group of Finnish-speaking Astoria residents organized a lodge under the name of Oregon Finnish Brotherhood No. 1, Astoria. Its purpose was to join into closer fellowship the scattered Finnish people so that they together might prevent misery arising from illness and injury. Fifty Finnish people banded together for this purpose, avowing that as the membership increases, the objectives of the lodge shall remain the same."

"ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION"

"Articles of Incorporation of the Finnish Brotherhood, No. 1, Astoria, Oregon. Made and entered into at Astoria, Oregon, March 12, 1887.

"ARTICLE 1st

"The name of this corporation is and shall be the Finnish Brotherhood, No. 1, Astoria, Oregon, and its duration shall be perpetual.

"ARTICLE 2nd

"The object of this corporation, and its business pursuits shall be to unite in a Brotherhood, to aid, assist and relieve the members of this organization, to watch over the destitute and sick, to bury the dead, and to do other benevolent acts. To enlist their sympathies and combine their strength in helping one another, to sustain a library for the benefit of its members. To hold, purchase and acquire property, real and personal, to bargain, sell, mortgage, or convey it at pleasure, to lease or buy all kinds of real or personal property. To borrow, or loan money, and to give or receive all manner of notes and mortgages or other securities thereof.

"ARTICLE 3rd

"The estimated amount of money belonging to this association, now in the hands of the treasurer is Five Hundred and Three Dollars (503.00), and other personal property of the Association amounting to Thirty Dollars ($30.00), making a total of Five Hundred and Thirty-three Dollars. Its sources of income are: the dues of its members and such sums of money or property as may be contributed to it.

"ARTICLE 4th

"The titles of the officers making these Articles are: The President and Vice-president, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer, of the Finnish Brotherhood No. 1, Astoria, Oregon, and that they are elected annually by the members of said Brotherhood.

"ARTICLE 5th

"The location of said Brotherhood is at Astoria, County of Clatsop and State of Oregon.

"In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals in triplicate, at Astoria, Oregon, this 12th day of March, 1887.

Witnesses:	Charles Larson	(Seal)
Gustaf Wilson	Jacob Moore	(Seal)
J.P. Dickenson	Alexander E. Allen	(Seal)
	Gustaf Makela	(Seal)
	Emanuel Maunula	(Seal)

"State of Oregon)
County of Clatsop) ss.

On this the 12th day of March, A.D. 1887, before me County Clerk in and for said county and state, personally came Charles Larson, Jacob Moore, A.E. Allen, Gustaf Makela and Emanual Maunula, all to me personally known

as the persons named in and who executed the foregoing Articles of Incorporation, and severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein specified.

"Witness my hand and seal of the county court the day and date above mentioned.

C.J. Trenchard, County Clerk
By J.P. Dickenson, Deputy"

* * *

These statutes authorized the lodge to a certain extent to conduct business not only with members of the lodge but with others as well, enabling it to loan money and to buy and sell property to benefit the lodge. It appears that a goodly number of members took advantage of the opportunity in times of need, securing the loan with some type of note or mortgage. Loans to others were made at interest rates as high as ten percent, although the usual rate was eight percent.

At the close of 1889, there were 176 members.

The year 1890 was one of steady advancement although no event is outstanding. Twenty-two members joined the lodge. No deaths occurred this year.

In 1891, twenty-nine new members brought added enthusiasm. Two members died.

In 1892, the lodge found it necessary to buy a piece of land from the Greenwood Cemetery Association for the sum of $432. The exact size of the purchase is not known, but it must have contained several cemetery blocks. Lots in this area were sold to members and their families for a nominal sum.

The Brotherhood extended a helping hand to Finland during the winter famine of 1892. News of the severe grain shortage in their homeland stirred the Finns in America into action to collect money with which to buy flour for the needy. Their successful effort was brought to the attention of the United States government, which, in turn, donated a substantial amount and authorized an agent to be sent with the grain to Finland to oversee its distribution. The Astoria lodge donated $26.60, a small but significant amount to the fund. *(The writer of this, then a boy of ten in Finland, remembers well the time when some of the flour, especially corn meal, arrived at his home. Corn meal was new to the Finns and they didn't know how to make bread with it. Later, however, they found out it made good "puuroa," or porridge. —H. Niemi)*

Dr. Estes still served the lodge as its doctor. His salary this year amounted to $140. Fourteen new members joined the lodge. Two members died.

The custom of presenting a gift to the president in recognition of services rendered by him to the lodge was started at this time and continued for many years. The first gift was a ring which cost $15. The gifts varied as the years went by, as did the length of the term of office, but the gift was always treasured by the recipient as a reminder of the time when he was able to help his fellowman.

1893. This year a lighter note is inserted among the more or less solemn tones that characterized our lodge activity. This was the first Annual Program sponsored by the lodge. It was held in Fisher Hall which was rented for the occasion for $20. As the committee in charge wanted the event to be most proper, as befitted that era, an experienced caller, C.J. Curtis, was hired for $5. Rudolf Nelson furnished the music for $30.

These annual programs became an established feature and were so popular they were discussed months in advance. Ways and means to attend them had to be devised, especially if one worked out of town. They served as an incentive for young men to join the lodge, as only members could attend these gala functions. As the lodge did not yet admit women to membership, invitations to attend were sent to all the personable young Finnish ladies in town. They were to choose their escorts from among the single male members of the lodge.

Many amusing incidents occurred in connection with these anniversary programs which, almost without exception, were held on New Year's Eve and were the social event of the year. Young men, who felt no desire to join the lodge, were now under strong pressure to do so before the next program. Many a young man, fearful of the scorn of his lady friend and haunted by the fear of losing her—perhaps forever!—to another, found his resistance broken and hurriedly sought membership and social acceptance. It often happened that, just before one of these programs an unusual number of candidates appeared for membership. Often some phlegmatic male failed to make up his mind until the last minute, and his only recourse was to fill out an application for membership and pay the initiation fee!

These yearly programs proved to be a wonderful incentive for increasing membership, and the activities improved. It became a problem to find a hall large enough to accommodate the crowds on these special occasions. The local women became interested and began to make plans to form a Sister Lodge.

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Before going any further with the year-by-year account of the growth of our organization, let us pause to consider briefly the other social and economic activities of the Finns in Astoria. These efforts are so much a part of our community development that they deserve mention in our history.

After the first Finnish men arrived in Astoria in the early 1870's and established their permanent residence here, it took a few years before any attempts were made to form social groups, as such groups necessarily need the help of the other sex to be successful. This lack, however, was soon filled when Finnish women began to arrive in 1877.

The first pioneer Finnish woman in Astoria was Mrs. Kustaa Helstrom, nee Hedman, of Kokkola, Finland, who came with her husband in 1877. Mrs. Liisa Kaukonen came later in 1877. Mrs. John Koski, nee Ollila, born in Kemijarvi, arrived in 1878. Mrs. Anna Sofia Anderson (Kerttula), nee Pietila, born February 5, 1863, in Pattijoki, and Mrs. John Jackson, nee Sofia Junttila, born November 1, 1858, in Pyhajoki, came to Astoria in 1879. Mrs. Martin Johnson, nee Kreeta Vilmi, born in 1852 in Simo; Mrs. Charles Larson, nee Elizabeth Kryytila, born May 25, 1857, in Liminka; Mrs. Jacob Moore (Muuri), nee Elizabeth Ruotsalainen, born May 9, 1855, in Kiuruvesi; and Mrs. Mikko Salvonen, nee Sofia Pirila, born January 16, 1860, in Siikajoki, arrived here in 1880. These then, as near as we can determine, were the pioneer Finnish women in Astoria.

Now that the Finnish settlement became established, the need for some form of constructive social activity began to be felt—regardless of the new and strange environment. First, a Temperance Society was formed. This became the hub around which centered the amusements and cultural activities of the young people. Next, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church was established in 1883. (This church, which later became affiliated with the Suomi Synod, is today known as Zion Lutheran Church.)

An interest in business adventures arose. In 1881 thirty Finns started to build a fish cannery under the direction of Eric Melin who came with the group from Erie, Pa., in 1873. Melin was born in Kälviä, Finland, September 25, 1841. A few other nationalities were in the group, but the Finns who were in the majority were in charge. These men purchased a slaughterhouse and two acres of land on the

waterfront. The cannery was finished and ready for production in 1882. It was known as the "Union Cannery" and gave the still-existing name of Uniontown to the nearby section of town were most of the Finnish people lived.

A cannery owned solely by Finns had been started in Uppertown during 1880. It was located between 30th and 31st Streets on the bank of the Columbia River and was known as the "Occident Cannery."

The "Äijäkselä" cannery, also owned and operated by Finns, was built in Uppertown in 1882 as a competitor to the "Occident" which could not furnish satisfactory positions for all concerned. So, a new cannery had to be built. These enterprises, however, did not last long because of the contentious character of the Finns which brought about their demise almost as fast as they were built. These efforts, nevertheless, were examples of Finnish ability and enthusiasm in striving to promote the betterment of their own lives as well as that of the community.

Because of the mushroom-like growth of these canneries and their resultant failure, the purchasing and canning of fish reverted to privately-owned canneries. The price of fish went so low that there was continual bickering between the fishermen and the cannery owners. In those days the price of fish was not determined by weight, but each fish was sold separately at prices ranging from fifty cents to $1.25. These prices were not satisfactory, as the cost of fishermen's supplies was comparatively high. So, in the spring of 1896 the fishermen went on strike. This strike lasted throughout the greater part of the fishing season and was one of the bitterest strikes known. A few people lost their lives and the material damage suffered was great. After a long struggle that brought only minor benefits, the fishermen returned to their nets.

But this strike had a redeeming feature. It awakened the Finns to a more rational way of doing things and so they established the cannery anew on a co-operative basis. This new cannery was known as the "Union Co-operative Packing Company". The Finns were in control although a few Scandinavians joined the group in the beginning and have remained to the present day. There have not been any serious price disputes, at least not to the extent that the fishermen had to resort to force to protect their rights. The original purpose of the founders—to establish harmonious relations between the fishermen and the cannery operators—had been realized. At the present time this cannery, now known as the "Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing Company", owns large properties in Astoria and has served as a "balance wheel" among the canneries of the Lower Columbia region.

In 1894 the lodge granted its first loan, presumably to a member, as the interest charged was eight percent.

On May 1, 1894 a group of women, who were inspired by the success of the Brotherhood, formed a sisterhood lodge, and named it "Fountain of Hope" (Toivon Lähde). They based their charter on the same principles as the Brotherhood Lodge. The Sisterhood became well-known in the community and was of great help in planning socials, annual programs and other entertainment. They worked as a separate unit for many years, but finally they united with the Brotherhood. Later we shall relate more fully about these joint activities and how the two lodges became united.

Nineteen members joined during the year. No deaths occurred.

In 1895 the anniversary program was held in Suomi Hall. A diamond stickpin costing $20.00 was presented to the president. Other expenses for the evening were $52.65.

Fifteen members joined the lodge, and one member died. The year 1896 was a burdensome year for the lodge, as illness seems to have been quite prevalent. Only six members joined the lodge, while four members died. Dr. O. Beckman served as the lodge physician with an annual salary of $150. Donations were given to several local organizations, such as the Grand Army of the Republic for its Memorial Day ceremonies, the Fourth of July celebration, and other local festivals. The annual program expenses rose to $117.60.

In 1897 lodge activity did not vary much from that of the preceding year. Six members died, and five new members joined the lodge. The annual program expenses amounted to $127.35.

In June 1898 the lodge purchased a building site on Duane Street between 11th and 12th Streets where the present lodge building now stands. The lot cost $2,500. Undoubtedly the members had conceived the idea of erecting a lodge building for their own use although several meeting places were available for rent or lease. It was the rent problem that set the members thinking seriously of building their own hall. However, it so happened that the site remained vacant for several decades. But the taxes on it were not very high, as they amounted to only $62.10 in the following year.

This year was again another of steady progress. The lodge received nineteen new members and no deaths are recorded.

In 1899 the social and economic life of the Finnish people continued to gradually improve, and this trend was reflected in the expanded activities of the lodge. Membership increased by 34 and the financial condition improved. Five members passed away.

The question of consolidating the similar brotherhood lodges under one organization arose in the Astoria lodge. The membership began to realize that the Brotherhood could function more effectively if the various lodges were united under a common bond. The lodges in San Francisco and Fort Bragg California, were operating under the same principles as the one in Astoria. Consultations pertaining to such a union were carried on with the San Francisco lodge, and the following year a grand lodge was formed. The Fort Bragg Kalevala Brotherhood lodge refused to join at that time. However this was an auspicious beginning, and new lodges continued to be organized in the Northwest.

A detailed report of the founding of the Grand Lodge will be made in the history of that organization, so it is not necessary to review it here. Suffice it to say that the Astoria lodge was a powerful factor in this task. It took the initiative and worked hard to bring about its fulfillment. This accomplishment served as a stimulus to our own lodge, for the efficacy of such an enlarged program could not be denied.

In 1900 the new organization became known as the "United Finnish Brotherhood of the World", however more than a decade passed before all of the lodges joined the Grand Lodge. The Kalevala Brotherhood lodges, that had been established earlier in and around Fort Bragg, had an inner program based on the Finnish epic "Kalevala". Their philosophies were idealistic, compared to the more practical ethnic concepts of the other lodges. Nevertheless, negotiations were carried on for several years which resulted in the consolidation of these two organizations in 1912. By this time lodges had been organized in California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, British Columbia and Alaska.

When the United Brotherhood activity started at the turn of the century, the enthusiasm it aroused among its members knew no bounds. But everything has its limitations and so had this spurt of enthusiasm. It lasted only until confronted by a real test to determine whether or not it was backed by a firm conviction to carry the work onward.

Many new lodges were organized with little thought given to the possibility of their survival. The state of Washington with its many industries was a favorable area for the expansion of the brotherhood movement. In the various small

mining communities where, with few exceptions, the majority of the workers were of Finnish origin, the benefits to be derived from a fraternal organization were more readily accepted than elsewhere. But they did not consider whether or not the community would be permanent, or become a ghost-town as so often happens when the mining companies ceased operation. Some lodges in these mining communities ceased to function after a few years while others transferred their membership and assets to nearby lodges. However, the good intentions of the movement created a feeling of solidarity among the members, and it can be said the work bore good fruit.

When the new organization was established on a firm foundation and the number of lodges had grown to almost thirty, the members conceived the idea that the Brotherhood should establish its so-called "Own Home", a central residence where totally- or partially-disabled members and old folks could receive either temporary or permanent lodging and care. This plan received strong support from members in the industrial areas. It was believed that by this means members could be cared for more efficiently and at a lower cost.

The idea so fascinated the membership that they failed to consider two important facts: namely, the size of the organization and the endurance of their enthusiasm for keeping up such a place. It was believed that, once such a home was founded, all disabled members would go there and abide by the rules set forth by the organization.

But, as worthy as the cause seemed, it did not win the approval of all the lodges. However, when the required majority supported the proposal, it was considered democratic procedure for all to abide by the will of the majority. The Astoria Lodge, being the second oldest and having the largest membership, sincerely supported this movement, and did all in its power to advance the cause. Several smaller lodges followed Astoria's example and worked eagerly to make the "Home" a reality. But, in Astoria as elsewhere, the sponsors failed to see the hidden danger that lay in this undertaking, which later collapsed and disrupted unity and mutual understanding among the lodges. All, in a way, wanted to have the last word in managing the home. As such a procedure does not work in a group, an error was made for which the organization paid dearly.

Meanwhile, activity in the Astoria lodge went on at a brisk pace and became more involved in the kind of assistance it could give to its members. John Penttila, a member of long standing, lost his right arm in a sawmill accident. As it was impossible for him to do any heavy manual labor, the lodge helped him to become self-supporting again by buying him a small tobacco store, which probably cost $588.35 according to an entry in the records. This benefit was a loan which Brother Penttila eventually paid back to the lodge.

We are sure Brother Penttila never forgot the assistance the lodge gave him when his outlook on life and the chances of beginning anew looked very dim. He ran his store successfully for over thirty years. The lodge assisted many others economically, although the assistance was in the form of loans of funds.

This year the lodge membership increased by 47, a considerable gain for one year. Two members died. The salary of the delegate to the organizational meeting, $148.50, was paid on November 20.

No outstanding event is recorded for the year 1901. Although the activity of the lodge increased considerably, the attendance at the meetings does not appear to have been very good, because the records show it varied between 16 and 50. Ways and means were devised to get more members to attend, not by compulsion, but by enticement. The lodge adopted a policy of going to a coffee shop for a cup of cof after the meeting and charging the total to the lodge account. This practice continued for many years, and, as usual, was disapproved of by those members who did not participate in lodge activities except by payment of dues.

The salary paid to the lodge physician this year was $220. During the year, 23 members joined the lodge and three died. Total membership amounted to 267 in good standing.

In 1902, the Astoria lodge participated in the Fourth of July celebration held in the city and was awarded a prize of $20 for marching in the parade. Even at that early date, the Astoria lodge membership was the largest of all in the community, thus enabling it to win the prize. It was the practice for several years to award prizes to the organizations having the largest group in the parade, and this incentive aroused the stolid Finns to proudly show off their ethnic strength and receive the first prize, which consisted of money or a souvenir.

Twenty-four new members joined during the year. Two members died.

The lodge received a considerable increase in membership during the year 1903, when 54 new members joined. The membership at the close of the year was 356. The lodge lost six members through death. The lodge was re-incorporated in March of that year.

As the activities of the lodge increased and the responsibilities of the officers accordingly, the question arose in 1904 as to why the few should sacrifice so much for the benefit of the membership without compensation for their services. Although the membership was large, it was difficult to elect new officers, and those in office had to serve continuously. Inspired by the ideals of brotherhood, many served faithfully for many years without compensation. It was decided to pay a small salary for the financial secretary, recording secretary, and treasurer. What salary each officer received cannot be recorded as the lodge books were destroyed in the Astoria fire, but the audit for the year showed total salaries amounted to $300, so evidently each officer received a small sum per month.

The lodge bought an additional nine blocks of burial ground in the Greenwood Cemetery for $900. Since the cemetery was under private ownership, they charged considerable prices for the sales of plots to individuals. The brotherhood was able to sell these plots at substantial savings to member families.

It should be mentioned here that some of the lodge members became recipients of permanent benefits, as in the case of Brother Matt Flink. He was stricken with a respiratory ailment at the beginning of the century. Besides receiving the regular benefit for the year he was presented with a gift of $200 for the purpose of establishing a small business; but he was unable to make it self-supporting, and the lodge had to help him for the rest of his life. Benefits for several decades amounted to thousands of dollars.

Thirty-five members joined this year and one charter member died. He was brother Alex Holman, a tireless worker for the good of the brotherhood and always willing to help a needy brother. Without such energetic brothers, our success would not have been so enduring as it has these many years among our people in this new homeland, which has also become the final resting-place of many brothers and sisters.

Up to the year 1905, no major disturbances had occurred in the life of the Finnish population of Astoria. The new political currents had not yet found their way to this distant community. Social life centered mainly around the Brotherhood, the Temperance Society and the various churches. However, a new organization was being planned, the so-called "National Society" (Kansallisseura). We shall give an account of their activities later on.

An explosion occurred in a coal mine at Burnett, Washington, in which many miners lost their lives, among them members of the Brotherhood. Because many families lost the bread-winner, the Astoria lodge put on a benefit program to aid the widows of the Burnett lodge members. The sum of $42.70 was raised for this cause.

The lodge gained new strength by the acceptance of 83 new members. Three members were lost through death. The membership on December 30, 1905, was 473.

On December 6 of the year 1906, twenty years had elapsed since the Astoria lodge was organized.

Twenty years in the life of mankind is a period during which many changes can take place in the field of activity either for progress or retrogression. These two decades were an era of progress for the Finnish people, although some of their endeavors were not of as permanent a nature as would have been desired. Regardless of how noble their ideals may be, movements cannot thrive unless they are founded on unselfish principles. The history of the social and civic organizations of the Finns in Astoria has proved this fact very clearly. The high moral aspirations and great sacrifices of the people have disappeared like chaff before the wind. In many instances the overwhelming cause of failure was the selfishness of individuals and small groups which often wrecked even well-established enterprises.

Among the earlier group movements we find the Workers' Society (not social democratic), which was organized during the closing decade of the nineteenth century. Its purpose was to create a favorable influence among the young, inexperienced arrivals from Finland and to guide them away from the undesirable forms of amusement which were prevalent in those days and to elevate the economic condition of the people. To achieve these purposes, the society constructed a building which housed a hall and a grocery store. The latter was operated by a stock company to secure lower prices for the consumer through united effort. The hall was the center for social activities and for study groups which endeavored to gain knowledge of the various social problems through the use of literature. Viewed after these many years, it seems commendable that our people adopted the attitude that knowledge is power. But in their quest for knowledge many sincere workers, who sacrificed for the common cause, often experienced bitter disillusionment. Sooner or later they could view the ruins of these worthy efforts. The store, which started to operate with great hopes for the future, failed—due to the selfish motives of a few individuals who tried to advance their own interests instead of those of the association.

Later, a new grocery firm, the Finnish Mercantile Cooperative, was organized. This firm bought the stock and fixtures of the defunct organization and continued the business in the same building.

The organizing of the "Kansallisseura" has been previously mentioned. Originally our city was geographically divided into three sections: namely, Uppertown, Centraltown and Uniontown, the latter being almost entirely inhabited by Finnish residents. This circumstance influenced the establishment of the "Kansallisseura" in Uppertown. It was desirable to have a meeting-hall in that end of the community since there were two or three already in Uniontown.

Pride and enthusiasm ran high among the youthful members. Nothing seemed impossible although there was a scarcity of funds. So they began the construction of a two-story building at the corner of 28th and Franklin Streets. It was to house a hall on the second floor and business establishments on the first floor. The latter were believed necessary when the city began to really grow. The building had to be large and splendid, at least half again as large as those formerly built. It was to be a real civic center and cater to the needs of the Finnish people. It was believed that harmony would prevail and the enterprise would prosper, so that the building would be paid for in the near future. But, as the expenses mounted above all estimates, the question arose how to raise money for the payment of outstanding bills until sufficient income could be derived from the enterprise. This caused a dilemma, although the leaders evidently had a place in mind where they could get money when needed.

They knew that the Finnish Brotherhood had a considerable amount of savings and were confident that funds could be borrowed from them with the property as security. So they made an application for a $5000 loan from the lodge. A lively and varied exchange of opinions ensued between the residents of the two sections of the city. Uniontown residents told those in Uppertown that they had financed their own building; you do likewise. Nevertheless the lodge loaned the money to them.

The "Kansallisseura" became well-known for its cultural activities. A choir, band, and a dramatic club were organized under proficient leaders from Finland who had been displaced by a new regimen of the Russian government and were now living in Astoria. These people were willing to take part in all civic endeavors, some receiving a small compensation for their services. The youth of that period spent many an evening within the walls of that building and were kept away from many undesirable influences which otherwise would have attracted them. Thus, this Society, too, by bringing culture and enjoyment, played its part in the life and progress of the Finns in Astoria.

Samson and Delilah presented at an Astoria downtown theater.

Countess Maritza under the direction of Axel Vuorisalo.

The twentieth anniversary celebration of the Brotherhood was held in December in the above-mentioned hall. The festivities started with a dance to which the admission was one dollar. The spacious hall was filled to capacity and the gala event was a huge success.

It is safe to assume that in no other locality have the American-Finns, in proportion to their numbers, erected so many buildings for co-operative and cultural purposes as they have in Astoria. Here they have built four halls, four churches and several other structures. The Brotherhood, however, was not able to rent any of the halls owned by the Finnish groups because they were situated in both ends of town and the lodge meeting-place had to be centrally located.

This year ninety-one members joined the lodge. Ten members were lost through death. The lodge donated $125 to fellow countrymen who suffered as a result of the San Francisco earthquake.

The lodge held its annual New Year's celebration in Logan's hall which at that time was the meeting-place of the lodge. It was a memorable historical occasion. The members attending were in a cheerful frame of mind, not only because of the financial success, but because of what the lodge had accomplished for the benefit of its members. Our history confirms what unselfish co-operative effort can accomplish in helping many a needy brother, who, without such assistance, might have perished.

Total receipts for the twenty-year period had been $62,299.63; expenditures for the same period were $38,694.89, leaving a profit of $23,604.74.

No unusual incidents occurred during 1907. Sixty-seven new members joined the lodge. Mention is made in the records of three brothers passing away.

In 1908 a new political movement, which at the beginning of the century had made considerable headway in Europe and the eastern part of the United States, had now gained a foothold in remote Astoria. Its most ardent supporters travelled west and implanted their doctrines among our countrymen, who at that time possessed a very limited knowledge of the various political theories. They painted a very rosy picture of great achievements which could be attained very quickly, but only after that which had been built had first been destroyed, regardless of whether it was good or bad. In their opinion, all present pursuits were a useless waste of time and funds; all existing social orders must be terminated and their resources used for the benefit of the new political party and for those participating in its activities; and, according to their absurd point of view, no other societies should function among the Finnish people. They were convinced that they had found the right sphere of activity for which everyone should sacrifice his all—not knowing whether or not the outcome would be successful to the extent, for instance, that the Brotherhood was.

In theory, the aforementioned movement was good in that its intention was to educate the masses to understand the affairs of state in order to establish a social-democratic economy and form of government. However, its leaders could not present the matter in its proper perspective. Certain fanatical fortune-hunters undertook the leadership and tried to convince the naive but honest workers that their aims were sincere. The latter failed to discern their motives at the time.

These objectives were factors in causing dissension in the ranks of the Brotherhood in its otherwise auspicious formative years.

A plan to dissolve the Brotherhood was devised by certain agitators who had arrived in the community. Many lodge members fell for the cunningly-laid scheme to the detriment of their own welfare. This outside propaganda caused many

Folk Dance Group

bitter quarrels among the members, resulting in some membership withdrawals from the lodge. Instead, it would have been to their advantage to work harmoniously in the community without interfering with the rights of other organizations to continue their successful operations while they gathered groups to study their theories and profit from this learning. The main reason behind the attempt to destroy the Brotherhood was the desire of the leaders to acquire the small savings possessed by the lodge for themselves.

In favor of this political movement, it can be said that it was an important factor in the cultural development among the Finns in America as well as in Astoria. Many of the local youth, including women, of that period received a well-grounded education in the fundamental subjects by attending classes and other activities sponsored by this political group. The Brotherhood, too, received many worthy participants as members, who became ardent supporters of the lodge and the ideals it represented.

The 1908 anniversary celebration was a gala affair, since the listed expenses amounted to $342.98. It was customary to eat heartily, dance, and otherwise have a good time. The behavior of the members was commendable, for the brotherhood ideals required that their morals be above reproach.

Twenty-two members joined during the year. Through death the lodge lost seven members.

For 1909, our sources of information are rather uncertain, so presumably nothing of importance happened in the functions of the lodge or among the other Finnish groups. The Grand Lodge proposal of a home for the aged caused some heated discussions at the meetings, pro and con, for it was difficult to reach mutual understanding of the economic problems involved. Our lodge favored the project and willingly paid the one-dollar-per-member assessment levied by the Grand Lodge to pay off the debt against the farm. No other lodge was as single-minded as Astoria in supporting this project.

Thirty new members joined during the year, and seven were lost through death.

In 1910 the Finns of Astoria again showed what could be accomplished by united effort. It became necessary to move the Temperance Society building, the Suomi Hall, to the business district. Its out-of-the-way location proved unprofitable, and the ground under it had a tendency to slide, especially after prolonged periods of rain, causing serious trouble. Consequently Suomi Hall was moved from Alameda Avenue to its present location.

The building was enlarged and a second story was added. This undertaking required much effort, especially for an organization lacking funds, for the Suomi Temperance Society at that time was in a stage of decline. But the problem was tackled with typical Finnish perseverance, regardless of the depleted treasury and the fact that only a small group comprising the most active members remained in the society.

(to be continued)

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HISTORY OF ASTORIA
U.F.K.B.&S. LODGE NO. 2

Translation from Finnish 50-year history, printed in 1937

(continued)

The social-democratic movement was gathering momentum and, as the group needed a meeting-place, a struggle to gain control of Suomi Hall began. Large numbers joined the temperance society with that purpose in mind, but they failed in the attempt and decided to abandon the hall "up there on the hill."

It now became imperative for the socialist group to acquire its own building. None of the local Finnish halls were adequate for their needs, so they decided to build a most imposing structure with all the modern conveniences. Consequently, a splendid Labor Temple costing a huge sum was erected. The Brotherhood was asked for a loan, but the majority of the members refused to grant it. Agitation against the lodge increased but eventually died down. However, it is an undeniable fact that the above-mentioned undertaking with its doctrines, its various activities and entertainments attracted many of the Finnish people to its cause.

Regardless of these temporary difficulties the lodge membership increased by seventy-four. Seven members passed away.

The Grand Lodge convention was held this year. Delegates from the Astoria Lodge were August Jacobson, Nels Bergman, John Penttila, Sam Peterson, Albert Paldanius, Charles Laity and Erik Gustafson.

In 1911 the Astoria Centennial celebration in which the Finns also participated, included the Brotherhood lodge, which donated $25 to the celebration fund. The centennial committee had arranged a parade in which various organizations competed for prizes on the basis of membership. The Brotherhood won the first prize, a large silver trophy which was treasured by the lodge as a memento in the meeting hall. Later, the disastrous Astoria fire destroyed the cup, together with much valuable lodge property.

The lodge loaned $1,500 to the Grand Lodge to further the retirement home project. Twenty-one members joined during the year and, for the fourth year in a row, the lodge lost seven members through death.

In 1912 the Grand Lodge convention was held in San Francisco, California, where the consolidation of the Kalevala Brotherhood lodges with our organization was finally achieved.

As in previous years, the lodge picnic was held after the close of the summer fishing season. These picnics were always eagerly anticipated because, in those days, the modes of transportation were not as convenient as they are today. So, when the lodge arranged a picnic, the usual method of travel was by train, either to Seaside or some other locality. This year the picnic was held in Svensen. The receipts for the day were fifty dollars.

Twenty new members joined the lodge, and nine were lost through death.

1913. Among the early Finns in Astoria there were several who possessed an inventive bent. No mention has been made of them on these pages, but they should also be given due consideration. These Finns, for example, made many improvements on machines used in the canning of fish. Erik Maunula developed several important improvements to the method of fish-cooking and also built the first cooling-system which has since come into general use in the industry. Many other improvements in fish processing are the result of his inventive genius. A machine for leading lines used on nets was invented by a fisherman named Eb. Haataja, Maunula made minor improvements to this invention also. This "leading-machine," as it was called by the local people, proved to be a very satisfactory device, for it enabled the fisherman to get the chore done at minimal expense. It is still the only one of its kind in general use.

Another notable invention, also credited to a Finn, should be mentioned here so that it will not be forgotten by future generations of descendants of these early Finns. At an early age, Frans Kankkonen had become thoroughly interested in the fishing industry. He possessed special qualifications and for several years was manager of a fish cannery established by Finns. In this connection he realized the necessity of improving the method of sealing the cans of fish. Up to that time the process required hand labor and the use of acid and solder. Kankkonen wanted to develop an adhesive that would permit the sealing of a can by a machine. He experimented with various ingredients until he found a combination which proved to be satisfactory in every way. This invention was the only one of its kind and soon became well-known throughout the canning industry. For some time Kankkonen was the sole manufacturer of the product and operated his local plant continuously for many years. The canning industry eventually found out the composition of the sealer and it soon became evident that it was being produced elsewhere also, regardless of the patent rights held by Kankkonen. After his death the heirs continued to operate the plant for a few years; but after the manufacture of the product became general throughout the industry, the competition also became keen and the weaker had to succumb. The heirs became discouraged in the struggle and sold the entire business to a Seattle industrialist. Thus Astoria lost the benefits which stemmed from a significant Finnish invention.

The Finns in Astoria have played an important part in various fields of daily activity, such as the building trades and ship construction.

These early immigrants started to build their own fishing boats when they first settled in Astoria. Some of these projects expanded into boat-building shops of a temporary nature, others became permanent business enterprises. Among the more firmly established ones we can mention the Palo Brothers, Nyman & Wickstrom, William Leppa, Kanto & Sotka, Kivijarvi, and Frank Smith boat shops; the Matt Tolonen or Columbia Boat Building Co. and the Wilson Shipbuilding Co.

The Wilson shipyard became the largest enterprise, as the largest vessels were built there. During the First World War the Wilson yard built ships for the United States government. The construction of these vessels required extensive facilities, and the Wilson yard became the second largest shipyard in Astoria at that time. Although American financiers were associated with the Wilson firm, the management and operation was carried on entirely by Finns. Fritiof Kankkonen, one of the stockholders, was general manager and superintendent. The crew was composed entirely of men and women of Finnish origin, and the saying was that at the Wilson yard one cannot get along with any other

language except the Finnish. It probably was true. The yard had no specially-trained supervisors, but the ships took shape, as if by a magic word from the mythological Väinämöinen of old, and were completed on schedule. The workmanship was acknowledged to be superior to that of other yards. Although Fritiof Kankkonen was not a member of our lodge, nearly all the foremen and workers were. So, too, with a few exceptions, were the owners of the other boat shops.

During the year 1913 the lodge acquired sixty-five new members. Illness was prevalent, calling forth added effort on the part of the membership in aiding the sick. Five members passed away. They were: Alfred Wirkkala, Hugo O. Laakso, Charles Leaf, Emil Hokkanen and Severi Aho.

1914. This year the Grand Lodge convened in Astoria for the first time since 1902. The organization was now completely represented for the Kalevala Brotherhood lodges had joined it during the previous convention. Fifteen delegates, each with two votes, represented the Astoria lodge.

This convention also marked a turning-point in our history for it was at this meeting that eligibility to join the Brotherhood was granted to women, as well as an opportunity for the Sisterhood lodges to join en masse if they wished to do so. The moral attitude of members toward the liquor problem was vehemently debated for in earlier meetings it had been decided that Brotherhood members should not be engaged in the liquor business in any way. This decision was openly thwarted by members in some localities. An uncompromising attitude finally led to the withdrawal of the San Francisco lodge from the organization, although there may have been other reasons for their action.

The failure of the Brotherhood Home venture had aroused resentment among many members, and the future of the entire organization was at stake. Because the Astoria lodge was the largest and one of the oldest in the group, it was able to influence the outcome of this episode so that the feeling of true brotherhood eventually triumphed.

This year fifty-two new members were taken into the lodge. Four members passed away: Theodor Peltonen, Jacob Aho, Frank O. Jaakkola and Vaino Sandberg. Officers for the year were: Victor Hendrickson, president; Sven Lonberg, secretary; Charles Wirkkala, financial secretary; John Penttila, treasurer; Sam Peterson, Alfred Thompson and Gust Palo, auditors.

1915. The industrial and economic development of the period advanced by leaps and bounds ushering in a new era. Those who could not keep up with the movement were forced to step aside. This new challenge was felt by members of the Astoria lodge. The new automotive industries were expanding rapidly, placing new models on the market and establishing agencies in towns and cities. A shortage of showrooms and garage space also began to be felt in Astoria. The lodge-owned building site on Duane Street, which was now valued at $10,000, was ideally situated for just such a business. Some members thought it would be a good idea to build a garage for lease if a suitable tenant could be found. The proposition was laid before Mr. Rowan, an automobile mechanic, who also managed the Dodge car agency, and Frank Cook, who became his partner, and they approved it immediately. John E. Wicks, a local architect, drew the plans and bids were called for without delay. There were several Finnish contractors in town, most of them Brotherhood members, who were to receive first consideration in case outsiders entered lower bids. The firm of Makela & Vuopio received the contract. The foundation of the building was made so firm it could bear the weight of a skyscraper if necessary.

The Rowan & Cook Auto Company signed a five-year lease, paying $150 rent per month. Their business flourished so that within the year they asked the Brotherhood to widen the building by doubling the original floor area which was 5,000 square feet. This posed a problem as the lodge-owned property was entirely taken up by the present building. The idea was kept in mind and the following year the lodge bought the vacant lot next to the garage.

When the time came to build, the question of financing the project came up as the lodge had loaned its spare cash to its members. It decided to reverse the process and borrow from the members—at 5% interest. This proved to be easy as more money was offered than was necessary. This project, too, had its severe critics, but the building still stands and has proven to be the best financial investment made by the lodge.

The lodge lost six members through death: Mike Anderson, Emil Holappa, Isaac Laurila, Eino Naapi, Matt Aula and John S. Hendrickson. Arvid Moisio served as president; other officers were the same as in the previous year.

1916. With the admission of exceptionally large numbers of new members the lodge sorely felt a need for its own hall where it could carry on an expanded program. It was suggested that the lodge build an extra story on the already laid garage-building foundation, but the majority did not think it would serve the purpose. At that time there were several halls owned by various Finnish organizations whose members were also very active in the Brotherhood. These people believed it to be wiser to remain in the good graces of the various hall-owners than to build another hall. The Socialist party hall was rented by the Brotherhood when necessary, although the rent of $75 - $100 for an evening was unusually high.

The year 1916 is noteworthy in another respect for it was during this year that the lodge founded a male chorus. Ivar Ahonen was hired as director for twenty dollars a month. It is true the chorus was not long-lived, but this social activity received the hearty support of the Brotherhood.

The garage building was completed in April and leased to the tenants.

One hundred twenty-seven new members joined during the year. Four members died: Tom Kingelin, Aksel Saari, Henry Hoviin and A. Kanerva.

Early in the year 1917 plans were made for enlarging the garage building. A committee consisting of Henry Niemi, H. Salmela, Alex Aalto and F.W. Jaakkola hired J.E. Wicks to draw the plans. On May 21, 1917, the lodge approved the estimated cost of building which was $9,500. At the same meeting the lodge decided to purchase the lot west of the original building from Captain Gunderson for $9,500.

This year is of historical importance; for it was during this period that a matter, which had been subject to much deliberation ever since the Grand Lodge meeting of 1914, was brought to a happy conclusion. In Astoria, the "Fountain of Hope" Sisterhood lodge had been functioning as an independent organization for over twenty years. The Brotherhood lodge now began to "woo" the Sisterhood lodge with the intention of asking it to unite with the Brotherhood. This "courtship" proved to be a hard task, for it was difficult to convince the skeptical women that they would be received as equals and treated with all due consideration if they consented to cooperate. (The women, no doubt, were wary because of previous experiences.)

Committees from both groups worked together for months trying to draw up terms for unification which would be acceptable to both parties. We herewith add the prerequisites on the basis of which, if approved by the Brotherhood, the Sisterhood lodge might possibly consider the matter seriously:

"All Sisterhood members in good standing, which number 91, are to be accepted into the Brotherhood without payment of initiation fees and without a medical examination. Each Sisterhood member shall have the privilege of paying the same dues she has paid in her lodge, namely, fifty cents a month; or, if a member wishes to start paying the dollar-a-month Brotherhood rate, she can do so without paying an initiation fee. They shall have the same rights and privileges as the Brotherhood members in all lodge matters. A sister paying fifty-cents-a-month dues shall receive sickness benefits of $5 per week and $80 for funeral benefits; a dollar-per-month member shall receive the same benefits as a Brotherhood member, and they shall have the same rights regarding release from monthly payments, the length of time being reckoned from the time they joined the "Fountain of Hope" Sisterhood lodge. On these terms the "Fountain of Hope" Sisterhood lodge will unite with the United Finnish Kalevala Brothers & Sisters Astoria Lodge No. 2. All Sisterhood lodge property and $3,700 in cash will be surrendered to the common fund."

—Sam Peterson, G.A. Hellberg, John Pesonen, Committee

The Committee for Unification delivered the above terms to the Astoria Lodge. A lively discussion followed the reading of the report and various opinions were expressed, but it was finally approved as read. The results of the voting showed 50 ayes, 7 nays. Thus a decision was reached on this very important matter on January 15, 1917.

On January 29, 1917, sixty-four members of the Sisterhood and a number of new members were initiated into the Astoria Lodge. The acquisition of women members proved to be very beneficial, although at the time many doubted if such a combination could succeed. It was feared that some delicate matters might be brought up which could not be freely discussed, but such fears have proven to be groundless. The sisters, perhaps, may have suffered somewhat because of shyness and did not feel as free to speak up in the meetings as they were in their own group.

The women were influential in forming active groups among the members, such as dramatic clubs, athletic groups, and a sewing circle. The latter has worked continuously since its inception in 1922 and has been a great help in raising funds for the lodge.

The building committee had received the plans for the garage building extension and called for bids. The following bids were received: Palmberg & Matson, $9,386; A. Pajunen, $9,199; Makela & Vuopio, $9,796; Henry Niemi, $8,896. Niemi's bid, being the lowest, was unanimously approved. Niemi resigned from the committee and was replaced by A.A. Anderson.

New members, exclusive of the Sisterhood, numbered 98. Seven members passed away. Annual program expenditures were $268.25.

1918. The previous year was the most progressive the lodge has known, both in membership gains and financial profit. The membership gain has been exceeded in only two other years; namely, 1916 and 1923. With the initiation of the Sisterhood members the number rose to an all-time high of 162. The yearly profit was the highest it has ever been.

When our nation became involved in the First World War, the Brotherhood also carried its share of the burden. Many members joined the armed forces either voluntarily or by conscription, several of them seeing action in the front lines in France. Fortunately, the majority of these returned unharmed. It was decided to exempt these men from payment of dues while in service, but at the same time hold them eligible for benefits in case of illness, injury, or death.

The general life of our community was marked by the boundless energy, the incessant hurry and the ardent patriotism that a state of war brings forth. The building business boomed. Ships rose phantom-like alongside the docks, and houses appeared on the hillsides as if sown by a giant hand. The highest hills in Astoria were made accessible by the construction of concrete streets up their steep slopes. The widespread opinion, that the war would last for several years and that building sites would not long be available, sent the townspeople to seek homesites on the hills where the view was unsurpassed.

The Finnish population was well-represented at the shipyards. It sometimes happened that, when government inspectors came to the docks, a considerable amount of running around had to be done among the 1,000-odd crewmen to find a man capable of answering their questions in the English language! However, the administrators and office staff had adequate command of English. Generally speaking, Uncle Sam's ships built by Astoria Finns were considered the best on the West Coast. Most of the shipbuilders were members of the Brotherhood.

During the previous year the Brotherhood had appointed a committee whose purpose was to try to find some means to help alleviate the food shortage in Finland. The war had isolated that little country, and her people were on the verge of starvation. The committee members were W. Valkkinen, H.F. Toikka and A.A. Anderson. These men were instructed to contact the National Relief Committee and to do what they could in this locality to help that committee. The Finns in Astoria, as elsewhere, collected funds for the purchasing of a shipload of grain and sending it to Finland. The Astoria lodge donation amounted to $400.

Although the original intention was to work together with the American Relief Committee for Finland, it was later decided to cable the money directly to the governmental relief agency in Finland.

The addition to the garage building was finished and turned over to the leaseholder in January, 1918. The rent was increased to $250 per month, exclusive of the basement. The lodge investment in the building now amounted to about $50,000.

By November the influenza epidemic, which was spreading over the entire nation, reached Astoria. Many lodge members were stricken with the disease. At that time there was only one small hospital in Astoria. Its facilities were soon overburdened, as more and more people became ill. To relieve this situation temporary hospitals were set up in vacant buildings downtown.

The Brotherhood lodge hired a nurse who went to the homes of stricken members to give what aid she could. They also hired a car and driver to take her on her rounds. This action on the part of the lodge was responsible for saving many lives since the doctors, who were on duty practically day and night, could not possibly visit all of the sick.

Sixty-five new members joined during the year. Six members died.

In 1919, the influenza epidemic raged throughout January and February, claiming many lives. The Brotherhood lost many members this year and several in the years following, due to the after-effects of the disease. By this time, however, the doctors were better able to cope with the malady, thereby reducing the number of deaths. The illness- and death-rate for the lodge was high. Thirteen members died, apparently victims of the so-called "flu."

Eighty-one new members joined this year.

1920. The previous year was a burdensome one for the lodge financially. It was also a year in which the ideals and purposes of the organization were tested almost to the breaking point. War-time restrictions caused the Grand Lodge meeting to be postponed for an indefinite period, and this

delay gave rise to many misunderstandings in the local lodge as well as in the entire organization.

The Brotherhood Home with its debts and managerial problems was the responsibility of the Grand Lodge trustees, most of whom were members of the Astoria lodge. They were forced to tax the members of the entire organization one dollar each to help defray the expenses of the Home. The Astoria members willingly paid their share almost without exception; but, in contrast, many lodges refused to pay one cent. This refusal on the part of some was difficult to understand; for the Astoria lodge members believed that the mutual burden of keeping up the Home had been assumed by all the lodges and, therefore, was the responsibility of all. Once again, the Astoria lodge experienced the uplift that followed as a result of adhering to the basic principles each member had sworn to uphold, and calmly awaited the Grand Lodge meeting which was to be held in Portland in November, 1919. The Grand Lodge history will relate matters in detail, so it is not necessary to dwell on them here. Our lodge delegates received severe treatment at this meeting. For a while it seemed that our achievements were to be smashed to bits and our entire organization wrecked on the shoals of suspicion and self-interest.

Parts of our structure were already in ruins and others were askew, for some lodges did not deem it necessary to even send a delegate to the Portland meeting. Some delegates, unaware of the details regarding the management of the Home, as well as other matters, fostered a feeling of ill-will and suspicion toward the Astoria lodge and its delegates. The situation was indeed critical; but patience and continued discussions helped smooth over the differences, and right and justice triumphed. Our delegates, along with other delegates cognizant of the facts, were able to repair the damage and steer the vessel of Brotherhood into the proper channels. In passing, we might add that the results of this meeting were beneficial in many respects to the organization and to the Astoria lodge. Many delegates, who had come to the meeting determined to subdue the Astoria fanatics for once and for all time, now became fast friends for life! Many confessed they had been misled. The idea of Brotherhood, which still was strange to some, received added incentive; and the dying embers of enthusiasm were fanned into a blaze.

New members this year numbered 58. Nine members passed away.

In 1921 no lodge events are outstanding, although activity was brisk in many ways. The annual outdoor picnic drew a large attendance, and the lodge anniversary was celebrated in our usual fashion. As yet, there were no extra-activity units within the lodge, but these were to appear shortly.

Illness was widespread and the death-rate in the lodge was comparatively high—after-effects of the "flu" epidemic. Sixteen members died.

1922. Since very little has been said about the significant forms of activity in our lodge, a few words of explanation will not be out of order.

For many years it had been a problem to get members interested in attending meetings, for the dry routine matters did not interest everyone, and therefore the lodge responsibilities rested on the shoulders of the steadfast few. After much discussion, it was decided that the last meeting of each month would be a so-called "Program meeting" at which an appointed committee would present some kind of educational entertainment relevant to our work. These programs were to include talks, readings, poems, songs, etc., but lighter forms of entertainment such as dancing were not to be forgotten. Later, refreshments were added. The "last Monday committees" have done commendable work year after year with the result that attendance at meetings has risen and members have become more active.

This year is remembered as one of severe destruction for the city of Astoria and also for our lodge, for this is the year in which the historic "Astoria Fire" occurred. First, in September, the Hammond Lumber Company's sawmill burned to the ground. The mill employed several hundred workmen and its loss was a severe blow to the community. Then, on December 8, a fire broke out in the city and destroyed almost 40 blocks of buildings, including the building owned by our lodge. The hall in which the lodge held its meetings also burned, and with it all the historical records of the Brotherhood — an irreparable loss. The lodge-owned building burned leaving only the outer concrete walls standing. The insurance on the building covered the greater part of the damage, but the loss in rent was considerable. Building costs had also risen since the building was erected and rebuilding was more expensive. After the fire the lodge meetings were held in Suomi Hall. When the Odd Fellow Building was rebuilt the Brotherhood meetings were moved back to their downtown quarters.

Lodge activity recovered from the confusion caused by the fire with astonishing rapidity. It is true that not as many members joined as usual, but even so the ranks were increased by 38. Ten members passed away.

In 1923, at the beginning of the year the lodge decided to form a sewing club as a subgroup to arrange bazaars to augment the lodge treasury. At a March meeting a committee composed of Hilja Niemi, Hanna Kaitera, Rosa Johnson, Hanna Laity and Helga Saarinen was chosen to form the nucleus of the club. This group has functioned continually and very successfully throughout the years. The large number of women participating in the various activities of the sewing club did so without receiving any compensation for their work, except perhaps a commendation from the lodge and the satisfaction that comes from knowing that their efforts have borne fruit in the form of benevolence. We cannot numerically indicate here the amount of funds which the sewing club has turned in to the lodge treasury, but we do know that it totals several thousands of dollars.

The reconstruction of our building was begun this year but was delayed because of the slow recovery of business after the disastrous fire. This situation also made uncertain the finding of a suitable tenant. Later in the year, however, a tenant was found and the building was finished according to his requirements in 1924.

A strike of long duration had taken place in a coal-mining community in Washington. The McKay Brotherhood lodge had been established earlier in this locality. Because the miners lost the strike, the mine owners ordered the strikers off the company property even though some of the workers owned their own homes. The lodge had also built a meeting hall. Because of these circumstances, the McKay lodge was in a state of disbandment and requested the Astoria lodge to accept its membership and treasury. The Astoria lodge was aware that some lodge must take the McKay members under its protection and suggested that it would be more advantageous for them to join the Seattle lodge as it was closer. However, if the Seattle lodge should turn down their plea and they had no other recourse, the Astoria lodge would give the matter serious consideration. When it was learned that McKay lodge had not found satisfactory protection elsewhere and still desired to become affiliated with Astoria, the latter approved the request and the consolidation was completed. All has gone well and the spirit of cooperation has continued to bear fruit.

The membership increased by 114 during the year. Through death the lodge lost eleven members.

In 1924 Astoria was going through a reconstruction

period and many of our lodge members were engaged in construction work, either as contractors or general building-trades craftsmen. Many of the buildings in the business district were built under the supervision of Finnish contractors.

The Grand Lodge convention was to be held in Seattle and the lodge committee on the constitution worked diligently in preparation for the far-reaching changes proposed by the various lodges. This Grand Lodge convention turned out to be one of the most constructive in the history of the Brotherhood. It laid a foundation for a program that allowed the lodges to receive financial help from the Grand Lodge. Also, a Youth Program was formulated at this time. Enthusiasm was created, and the membership began to increase in the various lodges. But, nothing is achieved without a struggle. Some Astoria lodge members resented the changes and believed that the confidence of the general public would be lost. After many heated arguments the mutual benefit of the new program was comprehended, and lodge activity again continued in a harmonious mood. The increase in membership has been near normal in the various lodges, even better in some. Fifty-three members joined the Astoria lodge.

Sixteen members died during the year.

In 1925, a new branch of activity came into being in the Astoria lodge which, should it prove successful, was expected to add new vigor to the lodge functions. A committee of five members was elected to do publicity work, or in other words, to foster educational and cultural activities in the lodge. The first members of this committee were Henry Niemi, Charles Wirkkala, Paul Thompson, Henry Kauppi and John Penttila. With the "last Monday committee" they arranged membership drives and programs for the last Monday of each month. This committee proposed the idea of holding a joint summer festival among the various lodges of the Central District, the place and time to be decided later. The lodge accepted the proposal and granted the committee power to make arrangements for such a festival. The committee went into action and contacted the other lodges through correspondence. Favorable replies were received from all.

To reduce travel distance to a minimum, it was proposed that the centrally-situated Winlock lodge be accorded the honor of arranging the first joint Brotherhood Summer Festival. Winlock was unanimously approved as a site, and the festival was held there on July 4 and 5. It was successful beyond all expectations and was the forerunner of these celebrations, which have continued alternately among the lodges.

Acceptance of youth groups was initiated at the Seattle Convention. The Astoria lodge gave the matter serious consideration and began accepting young people from the age of 12 and up as honorary members. The latter were allowed to function as a separate club under the supervision of their elders. The beginning appeared promising. The club was active for a time, but then the enthusiasm began to dwindle and the program was terminated. However, some good resulted from this program, as many of the juniors remained in the lodge and became regular members. Actually the youth program has not entirely ceased, since it has been reactivated periodically. Because the lodge did not have its own building, the activities of the various groups—such as the dramatic club, the youth club, and the sewing club—suffered because of the restrictions placed upon them in crowded quarters in a rented building. In spite of these difficulties, the lodge activity went on at a lively pace, as evidenced by the fact that 81 new members joined during the year.

Fourteen members were lost through deaths.

During 1926, no particular event stands out in the activities of the lodge; but, due to the increase in membership, steady progress continues. In the general life of the community more and more interest is being shown in the Brotherhood and the members are invited to participate in various civic activities, including the naturalization program established during the war. The dramatic club presented several plays at home and in other communities. We received visits in return from dramatic clubs in Seattle, Portland, Aberdeen and Winlock, which provided stimulating social contacts with members in other localities.

The Astoria lodge proposal to build a hospital here had become a reality with the start of construction of a hospital by the Augustana Synod.

This group bought property which was owned by the Fraternal Hospital Association. The Astoria lodge will continue as a stockholder and will be represented on the board of directors by two members whose duties will be to look after the interests of the lodge. The name of the new hospital will be Columbia Hospital.

This year 82 new members joined the lodge; fourteen members were lost through death.

In 1927 no noteworthy incidents occurred in the activities of the lodge during the year. The annual picnics were held regularly although no mention has been made of them. The financial returns of new lodges being organized in nearby localities, among them Hockinson, Ilwaco and Woodland. Many Astoria members living in those areas transferred their membership to these new lodges.

Fifty new members joined the Astoria lodge during the year. Nineteen were lost through death.

The amount of aid given by the Brotherhood in this community has been accomplished with much effort and sacrifice, not exceeded by any other Finnish organization in America. No measure can be made of the hundreds of thousands of dollars spent and the labor expended for such aid except by those contributing to it and those who have been recipients of this help. Were all the individual efforts enumerated, they would fill volumes.

In 1928 forty-four new members were accepted into the lodge. We lost twenty members by death.

In 1929 Astoria lodge was host to the joint summer festival, which turned out to be the largest ever put on by the Finnish Brotherhood or any other organization in Astoria. The daytime events of the two-day festival were held at the nearby U.S. Naval Base grounds at Tongue Point. This was a beautiful setting just east of the city. It provided adequate facilities for the numerous field events witnessed by the more than 12,000 daily visitors who arrived from throughout the West. State Police, who made the count of people attending each day, directed traffic in and out of the festival area. The two evening programs were presented in the lodge hall. In general, all Brotherhood festivals had been successful, but this one exceeded all expectations in all phases of the program. Truly, the Astoria area is among the richest communities in Finnish population west of the Rocky Mountains.

The lodge work progressed in its normal channels. Thirty-one new members joined and fifteen members were lost through death.

In 1930 Astoria began to feel the effects of the Depression somewhat earlier than many other communities in the nation. The city, with a population of about 12,000, had deposits of over $9,000,000 in local banks in 1925. This was an accumulation of savings made by small wage earners and fishermen, since there were no rich people in Astoria. As reports of bank failures came in from other areas, the confidence of depositors in Astoria banks became shaken. Astoria had four competing banks. Anxious depositors were

asking questions of other banks regarding the stability of their bank. This questioning attitude was not quite fair and contributed to the existing uncertainty. There were uncalled-for withdrawals that eventually forced two Astoria banks into bankruptcy. The other two banks also suffered financial reverses. Many Finns among others lost sizeable sums of money, and even the lodge lost some of its funds.

Astoria had within a few years experienced many severe economic changes. For a while it seemed that everything would collapse into ruins like the tower of Babel. But, in the midst of this desperate situation, new hope sprang, and a stimulating encouragement took hold of the population so that the economy of the community began to improve and the trials of the foregone years seemed but a bad dream.

Although the lodge activity seemed to be about normal during the year, something was apparently lacking, since the membership increased by only fourteen new members. Eighteen members passed away.

During 1931 the lodge had under consideration again the purchase of a building for its own use. The need for one became more and more apparent, particularly since facilities for youth work were virtually non-existent. Much discussion without decision took place at the meetings and every conceivable phase of such a program was thoroughly explored.

The issue was brought sharply to a head on October 19, 1931, upon receipt of a letter from the Finnish Temperance Society. They offered to transfer title to the Suomi Hall building for one dollar if the lodge would assume a $5,000 mortgage against the building, which was otherwise free of debt and on which taxes and street assessments had been fully paid.

This offer created a lively exchange of opinions and divided the membership into two groups—those for the purchase of the building and those against it. A committee was elected to study the pros and cons of the question. They were to determine the condition of the building, whether the purchase would be economically feasible, whether the activities of the lodge could be increased sufficiently to warrant the purchase, etc.

This committee brought its report to the November 23 meeting, and its consideration was the principal order of business. The report was inconclusive as the committee wished to remain neutral and let the membership decide the matter. After considerable discussion, the question was brought to a vote with 126 voting for the purchase and 122 against it. Since a question of lodge finance was involved, a ⅔ majority was necessary to carry and the motion was lost. This, however, did not destroy the hope among many members for a building of their own.

The Astoria Athletic Club, the majority of whose members were also members of the lodge, was particularly active at this time. The group decided to hold their functions in Suomi Hall and raise funds for the repair and purchase of the hall. And there the question rested for the time being.

Only ten new members were added during the year, seventeen were lost by death.

During 1932 the effects of the Depression were felt in the lodge. Many members found it difficult to spare the money to pay their lodge dues, and some asked the lodge for a loan so that they could remain members in good standing. This proved to be a wise investment on the part of the lodge, since most of them in time repaid the loan. However, a few saw fit to forget their obligation and dropped out of the lodge.

The lodge lost membership during the year, since no new members joined and 12 members died.

In 1933 the question of the proposed purchase of a lodge hall remained under discussion since the committee had not found another building acceptable to the membership. Under consideration was the Labor Temple, which proved too costly in view of its appraised value. The prospect of building a second story to the lodge-owned downtown structure seemed impractical—largely because of its location, even though it was centered between the two largest sections of the Finnish population in the city. The continued poor economic conditions made some members skeptical about investing a sizeable sum in real estate at this time. However, the encouragement given by the Athletic Club kept the building question alive and a solution was in the offing.

Five new members joined the lodge during the year and 15 members were lost by death.

At the January 29, 1934, meeting a report was heard from the building committee in which they recommended the purchase of Suomi Hall on terms offered earlier by the Finnish Temperance Society and previously rejected by the lodge. In addition to all taxes and assessments, the Temperance Society had paid $500 on the mortgage, which left a debt of $4,500.

Following considerable discussion of the report, the question was brought to a vote with the result that 86 voted for the purchase and 20 against it. This being a legal majority in keeping with the by-laws, it was decided to purchase Suomi Hall. The building committee, with the help of the board of trustees, was instructed to prepare the necessary papers for the transaction and to work out ways and means of financing the project, since the membership decided not to use existing funds for the purchase.

This joint committee reported to the lodge at the February 19 meeting. It was their opinion that the building could be self-supporting if a good program was initiated and continued. Repairs and all maintenance expenses were to be paid from income from building rentals and activities carried on therein. The committee also recommended that an enlarged board of trustees should be responsible for the maintenance and financing of the building and that all of the auxiliary groups, such as the Athletic Club and others, should join in promoting extra lodge activities with the understanding that they were accountable to the board of trustees. The responsibilities of the latter would be to properly administer the funds thus raised for the improvement and upkeep of the building and the payment of the debt on it.

The report of the committee was accepted by the lodge, and the trustees were instructed to complete the purchase. On March 12 all the necessary papers were ready for the lodge officers to sign. Now that the lodge had its own building, it was decided to hold its meetings there; and since March 19, 1934, Suomi Hall has been its permanent meeting place.

Now that the ownership of the Hall had changed hands, the Athletic Club and the Entertainment Committee arranged a splendid two-day festival in observance of the event. Everyone was happy; even old folks became young again, at least temporarily, for the festive spirit carried them along with it. The financial results were also rewarding.

After the auxiliary units were assigned their meeting days, their activities greatly increased. Everyone was anxious to help defray the added expenses. A feeling of solidarity developed, for it was evident that times of trial would also come. The unselfish effort expended was proof of progress, and it could not have been spent for a nobler purpose than that which embodied the principles of brotherhood. Plans for the following year called for extensive improvements in the entire building and the installation of a steam-heating plant. These accomplishments were made possible with the large amount of donated labor. The cost of materials alone amounted to thousands of dollars. All problems have been

solved agreeably, and at present the activities in behalf of the hall are proceeding with vigor.

Only a few new members were initiated this year. Sixteen members were lost through death.

Starting in 1935, lodge activity was centered in Suomi Hall. All of the units, including the Drama Club, the Entertainment Committee, the Athletic Club, and the choir, met and worked and practiced there. The Sewing Circle sponsored two entertainments monthly for fund raising and arranged two bazaars a year, the proceeds of which amounted to hundreds of dollars. These Circle members are to be commended for their perseverance and self-sacrifice. Now that everyone was working according to his ability to pay off the debt, it seemed no one complained about his troubles. The aim was to make the building our own as soon as possible.

We shall mention here how much money these various groups gathered through their activities. For 1935 the income amounted in round numbers to $3,200. This sum was used for improvements to the building and for reducing the debt by $750. From March 13, 1934, through January 1, 1936, the income, including rentals, amounted to $5,413.40. Of this sum $2,280.34 was used for materials. Except in a few instances, the labor was donated. Several members who were not in a position to donate labor contributed to the building fund.

The Astoria lodge has had subordinate groups in various localities for several years. Hockinson, Washington, one of the largest and oldest Finnish settlements in the state, was the first to form a unit. Several Astoria lodge members lived there, and they wanted to work in some way to benefit the lodge. Through their social activities they gathered many of the young people around them, who later became members. Because of a distance of one hundred miles or so, it was impossible for them to attend meetings in Astoria; but they looked after the sick and attended to other lodge matters. After a considerable increase in membership, the group decided to form a local lodge. On December 28, 1924, they established Hockinson Lodge No. 24. The new lodge was a gain for our Brotherhood organization, even though it meant a small loss in membership for Astoria lodge.

Astoria lodge members living in Quincy, Oregon, were in a similar situation. A subordinate lodge was started in Quincy, a large Finnish farming community. This group worked with success in activities related to brotherhood principles. Later, when Quincy Lodge No. 31 was established, many Astoria members joined. Again Astoria lodge lost some members, but the Brotherhood gained a new lodge.

Astoria's neighboring communities of Svensen, Knappa, and Brownsmead also had a large Finnish population, including many Astoria lodge members. These three communities have a common high school, known as Knappa-Svensen High School. The Brownsmead area is known for its excellent grazing land. The Finns found their way there over fifty years ago. The Gerttula family, now owners of a huge dairy farm, were perhaps the first settlers. Located favorably near the Columbia River, the farmers are able to carry on both dairying and fishing on practically home grounds. The constructive type of social activity provided by the Brotherhood appealed to these people, and they formed a unit known as Astoria Lodge No. 2, Svensen Chapter.

The Astoria Lodge membership has varied throughout the years, the highest being approximately 1,400. The present membership as of December 31, 1935, is as follows: regular members, 941; junior members, 29; honorary members, 4; total 974 members. The prevailing Depression has decreased our membership, likewise the formation of new lodges in our area. Several members have dropped out for political reasons; others for reasons unknown.

This year ten new members joined the lodge. Twenty members were lost through death.

The 50-year record of the Astoria Brotherhood Lodge shows that it has been of great economic value to its members when we consider the small payment of one dollar monthly or $12 yearly for dues. How many of us spend twelve dollars a year for some fleeting pleasure? On the other hand, that sum could have been used for paying dues, thereby helping the member himself, or someone else, in time of need. We shall include a record of the receipts and expenditures of the lodge for this 50-year period to show our readers how great the benefits have been in dollars alone. It is difficult to say how huge these benefits might have been, had the Finns in America realized in time that only by genuine cooperation in Brotherhood work can the greatest mutual benefits accrue! Although not even half of the Finns who have lived in Astoria during the past half-century belonged to the lodge, the payment of individual benefits amounts to a considerable sum. The same opportunity to benefit himself, his brothers and sisters, morally and economically, would have been open to the majority who stayed away.

The care of the sick has always been one of the most pressing problems in Astoria as there is only one local hospital which is owned by a Catholic Hospital Association and is totally inadequate to meet present-day requirements. The care received by the sick in this institution often has left much to be desired. In the early years the Brotherhood made an agreement with the St. Mary Hospital whereby our members must be provided with a private room or, if that was not possible, placed in a two-bed ward. In case of surgery or some serious illness, the patient must be given a private room for at least one week for nine dollars per week, the rate agreed upon for lodge members. Since the lodge paid nine-dollars-a-week benefits, it was considered adequate payment for the hospital. Individuals could engage a higher-priced room by paying the difference. The agreement obligated the hospital to give first-class treatment to the patient, and under these circumstances the care was quite tolerable for the lodge members. But the hospital managers were changed frequently and it was rather difficult at times to enforce the agreement, as the new supervisors were not always ready to abide by the agreements entered into by their predecessors. Hence it was a struggle to keep the agreement in force, but the most efficient weapon was a threat to build our own hospital. The fact that the Finnish Brotherhood was recognized as an influential organization lent weight to the statement.

Hospital requirements increased during the years and the local hospital was unable to keep up with the times. Consequently, it became necessary to consider seriously the plans for acquiring our own hospital. Through the efforts of the Brotherhood the Fraternal Hospital movement received its beginning thrust and developed into the Astoria Fraternal Hospital Association. The civic necessity and the economic feasibility of the project was thoroughly discussed at our lodge meetings, and the good as well as the bad aspects were noted. The lack of experience in dealing with such a problem was perhaps the main reason for the slow progress of the undertaking, because several years elapsed before an actual start was made.

However, the Astoria Lodge elected a committee to contact the other civic and fraternal organizations in the community, such as the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, the Scandinavian societies, etc., and also several outstanding physicians, urging them to participate in preliminary

conferences. The aforementioned groups realized the need for a new hospital in Astoria and could see no other way to achieve this goal except through the efforts of a Fraternal Hospital group.

Several organizations elected committees and joint meetings were held by these groups. They elected a permanent committee whose duty was to develop the project. Several of our lodge members were on this committee, and the lodge played a vitally important part in this undertaking. In 1917 the Fraternal Hospital Association was organized as a stock company. The intention was to get all the organizations and as many individuals as possible behind the movement to ensure its success, for a stockholder would surely support his own business. A considerable sum was raised by the sale of stock, and it appeared that the hospital would rise without any trouble.

But, then the United States entered the First World War and the newly-started hospital project lay dormant for many years. The enthusiasm perforce slackened, much adversity was experienced, and the public began to mistrust the committee. The books showed that several tens of thousands of dollars' worth of stock had been sold. When nothing was accomplished the stockholders became restless and demanded an explanation.

In 1925 a building-site was purchased at the corner of 16th Street and Franklin Avenue and work was started. The ground was graded, but that was all. Mistrust of the management grew, perhaps one of the reasons being that those who had subscribed for the shares did not fulfill their obligations, and the required sum of money was not obtained. The Astoria Lodge subscribed and paid for $6,000 worth of stock, thus showing its continuing support of the hospital project. After several organizations withdrew their support, the project seemed almost hopeless.

A Swedish hospital organization, known as the Augustana Synod Hospital Association, was contacted. This organization owned and operated several hospitals in the United States. Negotiations lasted a long time as they were rather skeptical about the success of the project. They feared there were not enough Scandinavians in the area to patronize a new hospital. However, an understanding was reached, and the Fraternal Hospital Association sold its interest in the project to the Swedish Association. The Augustana Synod Columbia Conference acquired all of the property of the Fraternal Association, the sale price being $46,000. The largest part of this sum was invested in the building site.

The new hospital project received a lift toward its realization by the completion of the transaction. Nevertheless, it was impossible to quell all the suspicions that had taken root in the minds of the people against the Fraternal Hospital movement. Some doubted the new management would be any better than its predecessor. The former bitterness did disappear, and new enthusiasm arose when the name, Columbia Hospital, replaced the former name.

The Columbia Conference started at once to get the construction under way. Bids were called for in the latter part of 1926. Work started without delay, and the building was completed in September, 1927, when the hospital was opened. The building and fixtures cost $246,500.

At the beginning, many difficulties were encountered in the operation of the hospital. Some people refused to patronize it; financial difficulties arose due to the inability to obtain efficient managers for the hospital. However, the worst of the problems were overcome by persistence, and the hospital has been operated for many years as a self-supporting modern institution, qualified to satisfy the highest hospital requirements.

The Astoria lodge's activity resulted in the building of this hospital. The membership and the surrounding Finnish community assisted and supported this endeavor in the years that followed. Members have taken part in the management, since the success of the hospital was in our best interests. Although the success of the hospital is only partly due to the support of our lodge, it is not to be underestimated.

* * *

On these pages we have made known the endeavors of the Finnish-speaking population of Astoria and vicinity during the past 50 years. Our fellow countrymen have been noticeably active in many fields of endeavor and have chosen to advance the cultural development of the Finnish people west of the Rocky Mountains by establishing Finnish-language newspapers in Astoria. At times they have been rather small and their contents meager, and sometimes they failed due to lack of support. But always, a new paper has taken the place of its predecessor with greater hopes of success. Astoria has not been without a Finnish-language newspaper in the last fifty years.

We have presented on a very limited scale the events that have occurred among the Astoria lodge membership and the Finnish-speaking people in this vicinity. The original intention was to compile a history of the Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges for the past 50 years; but because the activities of the Brotherhood are so closely linked with the Finnish people in the community, we considered it our responsibility to record these events in a restricted form for posterity. It is possible that no other group will write a history of the Finns and their endeavors, especially in the pioneer days of Astoria when they played an important part. The reader will no doubt find errors in the records as it is now too late to get information from the early settlers, and many important events have faded from memory because they were not recorded in time. The writers of this history have tried to get the facts concerning the events they considered to be of interest, by research and by contacting our fellow citizens for information on these earlier happenings. It has happened that the same event has been reported in a different light by different people. Consequently, if the reader has better knowledge of these events, the committee hopes he will pardon the discrepancies.

This history has been read and approved for possible corrections by the Astoria Lodge History Committee.

Astoria, Oregon
May 28, 1936

CHARLES WIRKKALA, Chairman
HENRY NIEMI, Secretary
CHARLES LAITY
F.W. JAAKKOLA
JOHN A. NIEMELA

Members Who Served as Officers — 1886-1935
(Number in parenthesis shows number of years served, not ncessarily consecutive.)

PRESIDENT: Charles Larson (2); Jacob Kaski (2); Andrew Perry (1); Fred Wickman (10); Sam Pederson (4); Erik Gustafson (3); August Jacobson (3); Henry Niemi (2); Victor Hendrickson (1); Arvid Moisio (4); Richard Wirkkunen (3); Henry Kauppi (1); F.W. Jaakkola (4); Matt Pietarila (2); Paul Thompson (2); Ed Ek (1).

VICE PRESIDENT: Jacob Moore (1); Emanuel Maunula (1); Harry Jones; Martin Jackson; Jacob Kaski; Ed Rova (3); John Penttila (6); Alfred Niemi (2); Antti Lahdenperä (1); Ivar Jääkkola; Oscar Joensuu (4); Henry Toikka (2); Hemming Salmela (2); Thomas Piittari; Victor Lundman (1); S. Asikainen; Sophia Thompson; Charles Kiminki; John Raitanen (2); Anna Sauvola; Charles Laity; Hilda Saarinen; Emilia Peuhkunen; Chas. K. Johnson (1); Anna Anderson.

(to be continued)

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HISTORY OF ASTORIA
U.F.K.B.&S. LODGE NO. 2

Translation from Finnish 50-year history, printed in 1937

(continued)

JR. VICE PRESIDENT: W.H. Routtu; Hannah Laity (4); Chas. K. Johnson; Chas. Pesonen (2); Arne Koski; Frank Smith; Antti Anderson; Alice Wiinamaki; Vernon Makinen; Hanna Kaitera.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Gust Makela (3); Alec Holman (5); Charles Laity (5); Theodore Lauriin; Erik Gustafson (5); Oswald Gustafson (5); Charles Wirkkala (23).

RECORDING SECRETARY: Walter Helmstrom (2); Alex Holman; Charles Laity (9); John Toikka (16); F.W. Jaakkola; Sven Lonberg (5); Paul Thompson (2); Chas. K. Johnson (3); Richard Wirkkunen.

TREASURER: Emanuel Maunula; Jacob Moore (15); John Jackson (5); Albert Paladanius; Charles Laity; Nils Berkman; John Penttila (10); Charles Jarvinen (2); Paul Thompson (3); J.V. Niemi (3); Matt Pietarila.

DOORKEEPERS: John Palo (2); Oscar Joensuu (2); John Jylhä (2); Frank Niemi (2); Aldrick Kari (3); Sam Takalo (2); Sam Sarkkila (3); Charles Larson (3); Victor Silver; Nels Stenman (2); Sarkela; N. Lahti (4); John Wiinamaki (3); W. Makinen (2); John Hauru; Hilja Niemi; Hannah Laity; Tolda Mitchell (2); Ellen Anderson; Victor Koski; Emma Ek (2); Elina Sotka; Anna Pisila; Antti Herlin; Sven Lonberg; Alice Wiinamaki; John Anderson (2); Santeri Laakso; Olga Jaakkola; John Salmela; W. Wuori.

CONDUCTOR: Antti Lähdenpera (2); Sam Berg (2); Henry Hendrickson; Henry Turve; Sam Sarkkila; Charles Larson (5); Richard Wirkkune (2); Thomas Piittari (2); Victor Lundman (2); John Risto; Jacob Junnikkala (2); A. Sankila; Emilia Peuhkurinen (2); Elo Kauttu (2); Santeri Laakso.

AUDITORS: Charles Laity (4); J. Rantta; Ben Macklin (6); Albert Paldanius (4); August Jalstrom; J.E. Panttaja (7); John Tiberg; Jacob Moore (5); Sam Peterson (4); Gust Palo (4); Alfred Thompson (3); F.W. Jaakkola (3); Kalle Turvanen (4); W. Valkkinen (4); Alfred Puusti (3); Ida Nikka; Henry Niemi (3); John Penttila (3); Victor Hauser.

TRUSTEES: Jacob Moore (5); Albert Paldanius (4); Alfred Puusti (4); Jacob Davis (4); Henry Niemi (5); Charles Laity (4); Charles Lauru (2); John Pesonen; Sven Lonberg (3); Richard Wikkunen (3); Jacob Kesti; Nick Warila; John Niemela; John Ahola; Jacob Konttas.

(Figure in parenthesis shows number of terms, usually 3 years per term)

CHAPLAIN: Thomas Mokko; Jacob Joensuu; Fred Juntti; Albert Berkman (9).

Translated into English from the Finnish 50-year history of the Finnish Kaleva Brothers & Sisters, printed in 1937.

November, 1958 by: V. William Seeborg
Jalmar Salvon
Jenny E. Niemi

HISTORY OF ASTORIA
U.F.K.B.&S. LODGE NO. 2
1936 - 1979

(In compiling the following history of the Astoria Brotherhood Lodge we have followed the style in which the previous history was written; namely, relating the lodge activities and showing how they tie in with the local, national and, later, the international interests of the Finnish people of the area.

This history will also have to be in a condensed form, for a complete history of our lodge alone would fill a book which would, of necessity, require its own publication. However, it is appropriate to record some of these later pertinent facts, for as stated in the earlier history, "...it is possible that no other group will write a history of the Finns and their endeavors in Astoria.")

* * *

1936. The gloomy days of the Depression were beginning to fade into memory when the Astoria lodge began the next decade.

Preparations for publishing the U.F.K.B.&S. 50-year history continued into the early part of the year. The committee had completed its work with the exception of acquiring the necessary pictures. The lodge granted the committee $50 for this purpose. The history was ready to send to the editor in May.

The Athletic Club was busy raising money to pay for improvements to the hall. A new hardwood floor was installed. The Club sold chances on a Graham car which netted a profit of $1300 for the lodge. Anna Huntus was the lucky winner of the car. She in turn donated $100 for the chair fund. The second prize, a silver service, went to a Mr. Raasina.

A fire-proof safe costing $85 was purchased for keeping the lodge records.

The Columbia Hospital Conference was not paying the interest on the Brotherhood loan. The lodge suggested that members pay their hospital bill to the lodge and the lodge in turn would subtract the amount from the loan. The lodge had two patients in the hospital in June. The hospital wanted to charge the lodge $1.50 per day, the same as the County was paying for its patients.

An "Astorian-Budget" subscription costing $6.50 per year was paid for a patient.

The Youth Committee ceased its activities for lack of interest and donated its remaining funds to the lodge.

An invitation to the 50th anniversary celebration of the lodge was sent to John Parpala, the only remaining charter member. The celebration, for members and families only, was a huge success.

Only three new members joined this year. Nineteen members passed away.

1937. The auditors' report showed the Sewing Club had given the lodge $769.25 in the previous year.

Sick Committee members were named for the following areas: Lewis & Clark, Young's River and Walluski in

Oregon; Kelso, Naselle, Deep River, Rosburg and Tieton in Washington.

The annual meeting which had been postponed until the fifth Monday in January, also marked the 20th anniversary of the Sisterhood merger with the Brotherhood. The Home Baking Co. donated the baked goods for the occasion and the MJB Coffee Co. donated the coffee through Matt Pietarila's store. The Ingersoll orchestra for the dance cost $5.

A Brotherhood park committee was endeavoring to plan a park for the youth of the entire community at Denver and Taylor (now West Marine Drive) avenues and it had the backing of nearly all of the organizations in town, including the American Legion. The city and county were willing to give the area to be used for a park. The Brotherhood Athletic group already had its equipment there. Charles Niemi, a local resident, donated $25,000 toward the park, as he was interested in a playground for children. The Astoria Public Park Association was formed, and it wanted the Brotherhood to send a representative committee to its meetings. Within the next five years the park became a reality.

In March the 50-year history was off the press and copies were ready for sale. The 300-page hard-cover book sold for sixty-five cents a copy. The lodge expressed its gratitude to the history committee and released it with a vote of thanks. Later, each member was presented with a copy.

In September the Athletic Club disbanded. It named two honorary members for the lodge, Katherine Warila and Oscar Huttunen, in appreciation of their support for many years.

In November the Grand Lodge proposed a membership drive with $200 to be given in prizes to the lodges which added the most members before June 30, 1938.

Radio station KAST offered a free one-half hour period for a weekly or biweekly Finnish program.

1938. The Svensen Chapter suggested the Astoria lodge take over the Svensen cemetery, but the ownership of it was not yet clear.

On March 5 and 6 the Suomi hall mortgage-burning festival took place. It was a time of great rejoicing, as the hall was now our own.

The lodge agreed to take part in the national Delaware Tercenterary Festival marking the landing of the first Finns and Swedes in America in 1638. Lodge members joined the large choir assembled especially for this event and led by Pastor E.E. Torkko. Income from a dance and part of the proceeds from the annual lodge picnic were given to the local festival committee treasurer, Dr. E. Pajunen, to send to the national committee in New York.

A youth group wanted to start anew and permission was granted. The Rhythm Club, comprised of 35-40 young women, was started. Their activities filled a special need in the social life of Astoria lodge for several years. Drawing on the various talents within their group, they presented numerous and varied programs for the lodge as well as for their community.

Among their many projects was an International Program, to which soloists and dancers from the many nationalities residing in Astoria were invited, thus helping to create an awareness of the contributions of different cultural backgrounds.

The Rhythm Club, or Rytmis as they became known, organized an orchestra with Nancy Roos on the piano, Irma Kontas on accordion, Bertha Soderman on drums, and Sylvia Niemela on violin. This group was much in demand and furnished music for many events.

Among the many programs arranged by the Rytmis was a stage production, "Ilta Haarlemissa," directed by Irma Kontas, and "Lauluja Laineilla," a musical play with a cast of 22 members.

This enthusiastic and creative group arranged Mother's Day Programs, Sing-Alongs, and folk dancing with other folk-dance groups from Aberdeen and Seattle.

In 1941, Helen Hendrickson, a member, was selected "Miss Kaleva" at the summer festival in Seattle, and the club sponsored Esther Kuivala for the Astoria Regatta "Miss Columbia" contest.

Four young members from the Rytmis were sent to Winlock as official Astoria lodge representatives to attend a special meeting of the Youth Education Committee. This committee had been created by the Grand Lodge to interest young people of Finnish descent to join the Brotherhood.

Although the Club disbanded as a group, many of its individuals remained active members and officials in Astoria Lodge.

Some of the names of Rytmi membership were: Irma Kontas, Bertha Soderman, Helen Kokko, Helen Hendrickson, Nancy Roos, Ingrid Seaborg, Inez Saxberg, Sylvia Niemela, Ruth Hauru, Aune Kauppi, Frances Korpi, Gertis Paavola, Milka Jokela, Maila Syrjaniemi, Ruth Lammi, Irene Williams, Jeanne Urell, Shirley Luoma, Violet Joki, Barbara Luoma, Vivian Bergsten, Esther Kuivala, Elna Ollila, Helen Ranta, Ellen Simonson, Gertrude Simonson, Bertha Meyer.

In 1938 Astoria delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention in Portland were paid $3 per day. Henry Niemi was elected as Grand Lodge President for the next two years. This was the first time since 1912 that a president had been chosen from the Astoria lodge.

The Astoria lodge won the first prize of $100 in the Grand Lodge sponsored membership drive. Ninety-two members were added during the year, including honorary member Onni Syrjaniemi.

Astoria's "Little Symphony Orchestra" asked for support in the amount of $2 per month. This Orchestra often furnished music at lodge functions.

1939. This was the year of the World's Fair at Treasure Island, San Francisco. The "Finnish Day" Committee asked for program numbers from Astoria and sent buttons for sale. Mr. Onni Syrjaniemi, editor of the local Finnish newspaper, was sent as a speaker. Nick Warila, our lodge president, attended the festivities and reported that a great number of Finns were present on that day.

The Navy Department allowed the Central District Summer Festival to be held at Tongue Point, but refused the lodge permission to hold its August picnic there. War clouds were beginning to gather in Europe, as predicted by a local attorney, A.W. Norblad, after his return from a European trip in 1938. He told the lodge he had received the best welcome in Finland.

Income from the lodge August picnic netted $293.30.

In December, the lodge Board of Trustees donated $50 toward a heating system planned for the Regatta pavilion. Also, a donation of $500 was given to the Finnish Red Cross following the outbreak of the Russo-Finnish War in November.

1940. This was the beginning of a decade of war-time and post-war-time benefit activities in Astoria and the surrounding areas. Suomi Hall was a beehive of activity, for the Brotherhood granted use of the hall rent-free to various groups intent on raising funds.

During the Russo-Finnish War (1939-1944) the Finnish Relief Fund of New York, and later Help Finland, Inc., asked for donations. Many local lodges, theaters, and churches joined in the effort to raise money for the desper-

Rhythm Club delegates to 1940 Kasvatus Komitea: Bertha Soderman, Sylvia Niemela, Irma Konttas, Nancy Roos.

ately-needed relief in war-torn countries. People worked diligently for this purpose and the results were amazing. Letters of gratitude were received for years from the recipients.

A local Finnish organization, "Lotta Svärd," was chartered as a unit of Help Finland, Inc., by the New York office. This unit held weekly meetings and money-gathering socials for many years. Donations of food, clothing, and other supplies were sent when communications between the countries were resumed. The following figures will give the reader an idea of the significance of this mutual effort.

In the period between December, 1939, and December 8, 1940, cash donations amounted to $17,787.48. Between October, 1945, and February, 1946, donations of clothing comprised 131 sacks weighing 5,238 pounds on which freight charges of $326 were paid. The collection of funds continued sporadically for several years until the need was lessened.

In 1940 the lodge held its summer picnic in the new Tapiola Park. ("Tapiola" means the domain of the ruling spirit of the forest, "Tapio," in the Finnish epic "Kalevala.") Deficiencies in the park were noted, as there were no cooking facilities or restrooms. The lodge appointed a committee to meet with the city officials to discuss this lack and donated $50 toward a fund for this purpose.

The Grand Lodge Convention which was scheduled to be held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, was changed to Berkeley, California, because war-time restrictions made the border-crossing difficult.

The "Rhythm Girls" put on a program for Finnish Relief which netted $97.

The lodge adopted a ceremony to recognize the death of a member by lowering the hall flag to half-mast until the day of the funeral. In a case of death by drowning, when the body was not found, the period was three days.

In reading the minutes of the lodge meetings, one can only marvel at the willing, conscientious, and just manner in which the members were cared for and the concern shown for those in state institutions.

Twenty-one new members joined during the year. Seventeen members died.

1941. Astoria lodge members living in the Longview, Washington, area transferred into the newly-formed Longview-Kelso Lodge No. 32 in January. Paul Thompson of Astoria officiated at the function.

Help Finland, Inc. asked for funds for Finnish amputees. Our hall library committee decided to charge five cents for each book loaned to raise money for this purpose.

The Greek Relief Organization thanked the lodge for its $25 contribution. The Norwegian Relief Association thanked the lodge for use of the hall.

The summer picnic, which was scheduled to be held in Tapiola Park, was rained out so it was held at the hall. Profit was $7.96.

The Tapiola Park swimming pool was finished this year. Henry Niemi was in charge of construction with mostly volunteer labor. The park committee members of the lodge, Matt Pietarila and Sven Lonberg, reported that $1200 was needed for the dressing rooms and that the people in this end of town were asked to help raise this amount. A benefit dance for this purpose was held in Suomi hall.

The lodge sent a recommendation to Congress to grant Finland a $7,000,000 loan for foodstuffs until the fall crops are in. Senator Rufus Holman and Representative James Mott of Oregon answered that they knew Finland's position and would do all possible to obtain the loan.

The United States entered the Second World War in December.

The Central Labor Council's request for a donation for an Emergency Car in Astoria was approved. First Aid courses were to be taught at the Hughes-Ransom chapel.

Fifteen new members joined this year, twenty were lost through death.

1942. The entry of the United States into WW II caused a surge in the economic life of Astoria reminiscent of the First World War period. The army and navy personnel stationed at Ft. Stevens and at Tongue Point respectively, with the added labor forces at the shipyards and canneries, more than doubled the population of the area. Every industry was asked to produce more to help in winning the war. Local artisans over the draft age were recruited to work in the shipyards where minesweepers and other ships were built. Many Brotherhood members were employed there and in the canneries.

Churches and civic organizations and the Red Cross provided rest and recreation possibilities for the soldiers and sailors during their leave hours. The women of the area were kept busy providing daily refreshments for the USO. The Saturday night dances sponsored by the Brotherhood became so popular among the servicemen they had to be scheduled for Wednesday nights also. Lodge members and the Shore Patrol made sure the conduct of all was commendable. No drinking was allowed on the premises. These dances kept the Sewing Club and the Entertainment committees busy for years during which they performed an admirable service.

War Bond auctions were held twice yearly in Suomi hall through December, 1945. Local businesses donated articles for sale, the most popular item being a case of canned fish which was difficult to obtain in the regular markets. The price of a case at the auction often rose to thousands of dollars! The incomplete records of these auctions show that $750,000 worth of bonds were sold to the credit of the Astoria lodge. A letter of thanks was received from the U.S. Treasury Department.

This year a notice was sent to the lodge stating that the Summer Festivals and the Grand Lodge Conventions would be postponed until the war was over.

Service stars on the lodge Defense flag increase in number as more of our boys enter the military services.

Members were urged to donate to the Navy Relief Fund as the sailors' morale would lift if they knew their families would be cared for.

The insurance on Suomi hall and the garage building on Duane Street was raised to $10,000 and $45,000 respectively in case of bombing by the enemy.

The U.S. Coast Guard wanted the use of the hall every Friday to instruct fishermen about the ever-changing safety precautions necessary in war-time so that the fishing industry would not suffer.

The lodge donated $10 to the Christmas Tree Fund for the soldiers at Camp Clatsop.

Only three new members joined this year. Twenty-three members passed away.

1943. Some indigent members were sent to Columbia Hospital and their expenses paid by shortening the debt of the hospital to the lodge. Grave markers for the indigent were provided by the lodge.

Instructions on how to protect oneself from gas or chemical warfare attack were given at the January meeting.

As heating-oil was difficult to obtain and the hall was cold, meetings were to be held in the dining room with the exception of the last-Monday-of-the-month meetings.

The lodge picnic was postponed because it was difficult to get food to sell. The point system for fats, sugar, coffee and meats was in effect due to wartime regulations.

Lauri A. Williams, Takoma Park, Virginia, thanked the lodge for the 50-year history and the constitution book and said he would donate them to the Library of Congress when he had finished reading them.

The lodge funeral spray price was raised to $5.

No new members joined this year. Twenty-two members died.

1944. Navy Section Base Lt. Com. Asquith asked the lodge to install a pay phone in the hall as navy men attending dances were often hurriedly called to the base.

Henry Toikka celebrated his 80th birthday on May 15. The president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the lodge went to congratulate him that evening at his home. This practice in regard to octogenarians was carried out for several years.

Ilwaco Lodge members reported their hall had been taken over for the soldiers, so their meetings diminished.

Sylvia Niemela won the $100 War Bond placed in a drawing.

Ruth Lammi, a junior member and a promising soprano, asked the lodge to sponsor her concert at the Central School auditorium in April.

A 50-year history was donated to the Astoria Public Library.

Ladies and Knights of Kaleva asked for the hall for a Finnish Independence Day program. Proceeds were to go to war orphans in Finland.

The lodge bought a $10,000 War Bond in the December auction.

Four new members joined this year. Ten members were lost through death.

1945. Navy Hospital committee member Katherine Warila asked the lodge for donations of dishes and literature for the hospital. The lodge bought a $60-dinner-set which proved to be a welcome gift. A thank-you letter from the Hospital says that the set was "the best gift possible," and would be used for visitors' and women's quarters personnel.

The lodge donated $25 to the Red Cross Fund Drive.

Lodge property exceeded $100,000 for the first time although the membership was declining.

Lodge Library receipts of $52.36 were donated to Help Finland, Inc. The board of trustees donated $500 for medicines, vitamins, and food to the same cause.

A new electric range was bought for the hall kitchen at a cost of approximately $400.

Six new members joined in 1945. Twenty-six members passed away.

1946. WW II ended in August 1945. The lodge decided to return the membership dues to all war veterans who paid dues while in the service. Lodge veterans were sent special invitations to attend a program in their honor on March 24 at Suomi hall.

Repairs on the foundation and siding of hall amounted to $5,000.

The American Legion, which sponsored Beaver State Boys Camp, asked for a donation of $15 to send one boy to camp. Our boy was Gerald Haarala, who later reported his experiences and expressed his thanks to the lodge for giving him the opportunity to attend the camp.

The Central District Summer Festival which was held in July in Aberdeen, Washington, was a huge success. The program was excellent and members converged from over the Northwest to again enjoy the annual affair which had not been permitted since 1941.

Five delegates were sent to the Grand Lodge Convention at $9 per day.

Profit from the fall picnic held at Tapiola Park was $211.

The women of the lodge had been busy making articles for the Red Cross. Anna Tormanen and Phoebe Rohola reported that 150 pairs of hospital slippers had been taken to the local branch.

The Aberdeen Lodge Chorus presented a concert in Suomi hall for the benefit of Finnish Relief. The hall rent was donated.

The hall value was raised to $9,500.

A first-of-its-kind happening occurred in Astoria when triplet girls were born to Toivo and Doris Koski in October. All of them survived and were kept in incubators in Columbia Hospital for several months. A benefit dance was given in their honor in Suomi hall.

The Columbia Hospital promissory note was due and paid with interest, the total being $7,277.

The lodge received eight new members. Twenty members passed away.

1947. Help Finland, Inc. needed more funds and had set a quota of $500,000 to be collected from American-Finns. Lutheran churches were to collect $10,000,000, one million of which would go to Finland. The lodge gave the hall rent-free for a program held for raising money for this purpose.

Records showed the Sewing Club had added $5,000 to the lodge income last year.

Edward Riippaa, a native Astorian who had spent several years in Finland studying music, returned with his wife and son. Mr. Riippa was to direct the lodge choir for $50 per month.

Hall repairs were made in the spring. The ceiling was lowered and neon lights were installed. The stage was shortened and the dance floor was enlarged.

Finnish war invalids sent a circulating library as a thank you gesture for help received. Most of the books were written by contemporary authors. The library was sent to several localities in the Northwest.

The District Summer Festival was held at Gyro Field in Astoria. Gross income was $2,868, profit was $726.

The Red Cross asked for gift donations for men overseas. The lodge sent ten gifts at $1.50 each.

Fifty-nine new members, twenty-five of them juniors, were added this year. Twenty-seven members passed away.

1948. The 30th anniversary of the merger of the Sisterhood and the Brotherhood was celebrated in January. Elin Katri Toikka was the first woman to join the Brotherhood after the merger. Gust Hellberg was the only member of the

merger committee left. Sixteen charter members of the Sisterhood were present: Hilda Kauppi, Annie Oiderman, Annie Mattson, Mary Kaitera, Mary Ranta, Hilma Fellman, Mary Risto, Elin Toikka, Anna E. Mattson, Anna Tormanen, Hilda Hamala, Martha Viuhkala, Minnie Ostrom, Edith Pietila, Ina Simila and Lydia Oja.

Sven Lonberg returned from a prolonged visit to Finland. While there he had visited lodge brothers Walkkinen, Aalto and Makinen. He brought eight books and four original drawings of Finland's historical buildings from Veikko Hintikka as a gift to the lodge. Mr. Hintikka was sent a Christmas package.

The lodge sent ten delegates to the Grand Lodge Convention in Winlock, Washington, at nine dollars per day.

Mrs. Esther Hietala, Help Finland, Inc. representative from New York visited the lodge in November.

The Finnish Independence Day program brought in $200 for Finnish Relief. The lodge donated $13 and a box of groceries for Christmas distribution by the Salvation Army.

Nine new members joined this year. The obituary columns grew longer with the passing of years. Thirty members died in 1948.

1949. The lodge decided to hold every other meeting in the English language on a trial basis to see if more members would attend.

Leah Piltti, Finnish operatic soprano, presented a concert at Suomi hall in January. Coffee hour proceeds went to Finnish Relief.

The lodge choir had given several concerts since its inception and by June had given the trustees $925.

The lodge donated $157 for incidentals to Matti Raikkala, an exchange student from Finland studying at the University of Oregon.

The financial secretary reported that at this date the average age of members was 58½ years, and average membership time was 28 years.

Grand Lodge President Tauno Ahonen visited the lodge and announced plans for the Grand Lodge 50th anniversary celebration to be held in Berkeley next year. Buttons were to be sold to finance the fares for 50-year members.

Income from the Finnish Independence Day program, $193, was sent to a maternity hospital in Finland.

The Entertainment committee had turned in $4,182 to the board of trustees during the year.

Since the hall was purchased fifteen years ago, income from the Sewing Club, the Entertainment committee and rents have amounted to $43,237.

This year the membership increased by twelve and 22 members passed away.

1950. Former Rhythm Club girls, Irma Hummasti and Nancy Mattila, presented to the lodge a proposition to start a Dramatic Club. Kaarina Vilkki, who was in the area from Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to be the director.

The Astoria High School Music Department was given a $25 donation to help defray expenses of musicians to the state Music Contest. A $15 donation was made to the Community Chest Fund.

The August, 1950, edition of "Veljeysviesti" (The Message of Brotherhood) was known as the "Astoria issue" and contained 28 pages of valuable history of our lodge written by long-time members. The publication was a classic.

The Grand Lodge Convention was held in Aberdeen, Washington. From the Astoria delegation Nick Warila was elected Grand Lodge President, and Henry Niemi and Arvi Leppinen were elected Grand Lodge Trustees.

In September, William Seeborg resigned as secretary and Sven Lonberg was named to replace him. Within a week, however, Lonberg died and Seeborg promised to serve until the end of the year.

The Grand Lodge Officers suggested that committees be named to translate into English the histories of the local lodges, which were published in the 50-year history of the organization.

Henry Niemi was named as a delegate to the Grand Lodge 50th anniversary celebration which was held in Berkeley in November. Fifty-year members were guests of honor at the two-day festival, and their fare to the event was paid by the Grand Lodge.

At the 64th anniversary celebration of our lodge in November, gold 50-year pins were presented to twenty-two members who had joined the lodge in 1900. The honored recipients were: Joseph Anet, John P. Anderson, Frank O. Dixon, John Jylha, Annie Macklin, Tillie Niemi, Richard Riippa, Isaac Saari, John Sarkie, Mathilda Suomela, John Takala, Jacob Orni, Otto Carlson, Oscar Joensuu, Maggie Juhola, Anna Liisa Palo, Peter Suomela, Selina Saikka, Ida Sture, Charles Oja, Alfred Puusti and Matt Arvid Panttaja.

Since our lodge was established in 1886, and up to June 30, 1958, sickness and funeral benefits paid to members amounted to $499,109.

The lodge had 737 members on December 31, 1950.

Only seven members joined this year. Twenty-six members were lost through death.

1951. The board of trustees found it necessary to raise the hall rents as follows: Hall, alone, $30; hall and kitchen, $45; dining-room, $12; downstairs restaurant, $95; pool hall, $84. The hall janitor's wages were $75 per month.

The U.S. Treasury Department placed a 20% tax on coffee and soft drinks sold in connection with a dance.

Graves of members in Riverview Cemetery were cleaned and the sunken graves were filled by volunteers from the lodge.

The Entertainment committee arranged a dance for every Saturday night, and their yearly profit amounted to $1,362. The Dramatic Club brought in $675 and the Sewing Club $507 for the year.

At the lodge's 65th anniversary program in November, 50-year pins were presented to Charles Wirkkala, Aldrick Mattson, Matt Carlson and John A. Martin.

Sixty members joined this year, but the gain for the lodge was actually only thirty, as eight were dropped because of non-payment of dues and 22 were lost through death.

On December 31, 1951, lodge property and cash totalled $122,931.

1952. The Dramatic Club was very active this year. Nine plays were presented, three of them in several communities. One performance of "That Finnish Sisu" was given for the benefit of the Finnish athletes taking part in the Olympics. Yearly income for the Club was $950.

The Grand Lodge Convention met in Ft. Bragg, California. Our lodge sent nine delegates at $15 per day.

The 66th anniversary celebration was changed to the original day of the founding of our lodge, namely, November 17.

The hall rent was raised to $35 for non-members.

Income from the Entertainment committee amounted to $470 and from the Sewing Club $396 for the year. The almost two-thirds reduction within a year in the income of the former was due to the fact that the military forces stationed in Astoria were being gradually phased out, and life in the city was settling back into its normal channels.

Eleven new members joined this year and 25 members were lost by death.

The membership roll had decreased by twenty-one on December 31 to 699.

1953. This year three artists from Finland appeared at the hall. The first one was Paul Oksman, a Finnish baritone who also was an American war veteran. Kaarlo Kultalahti, a veteran Finnish actor, made several appearances while in Astoria; and Paul Norrback, an accordionist, gave a concert and played at a dance.

The Central District Summer Festival was held in Astoria at the Captain Robert Gray School. The Dramatic Club presented a play, "In the House of Roinila," to a large audience.

A committee consisting of Henry and Jenny Niemi, Jalmar Salvon and William Seeborg was named to translate the lodge's 50-year history into English.

A "Pep Club" was formed this year. It remained active for many years and sponsored dances and the ever-popular Bingo parties once and later, twice a week.

In July a decision was made to reduce the weekly lodge meetings to the first, third and fifth Mondays.

This year was financially burdensome for the lodge. Sickness and funeral benefits paid out amounted to over ten thousand dollars. Income from the auxiliary groups helped to offset this loss.

At the 67th anniversary program 50-year pins were presented to Charles Nelson, Victor Silver, Abram Koski, Jacob Kauppi, Edward Wilson, Emil Kalander, Victor Davidson and Samuel Takala.

Twenty-two new members joined during the year and 16 members passed away.

1954. The Pep Club celebrated its first anniversary, and the lodge *a capella* choir gave a concert in March.

On their way to the Convention at Vancouver, B.C., the Berkeley lodge Dramatic Club presented a play, "California," at Suomi Hall.

Our Dramatic Club presented three plays during the year under the direction of Hilma Johnson and Oscar Huttunen. Their profit was $375 for the year.

The Sewing Club income amounted to $646.50, and the Bingo receipts were $1,247.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Annie Oiderman, Jalmar Hokkanen, Fred Rintala, John Lahti, Anna Eriika Mattson, and Anna Pontinen.

The Finnish Independence Day program receipts of $118 were donated to Finnish orphans.

Only three new members joined this year. The number of deceased members rose to twenty-seven.

Sickness and funeral benefits paid this year amounted to over $15,000.

Membership had decreased within a year by thirty-five, the total being 654.

1955. In January at the annual meeting, the retiring financial secretary of the lodge, Charles Wirkkala, was presented with a beautiful wrist watch and an award signed by the officers of the lodge in appreciation for his 48 years of continuous service as an officer in the lodge (1907-1955). The February issue of "Veljeysviesti" was dedicated to him.

The Pep Club ordered hats with the Astoria lodge emblem. Members could purchase them for $2.75.

The Lewis and Clark Sesquicentennial Committee asked the lodge for volunteers to help build a log replica of the original Fort Clatsop where the two explorers wintered in 1805-06. Olavi Hietaharju, a recently-arrived Finnish war veteran with experience in such work, supervised the construction of the log fort. He, with Charles Carlson, laid the foundation for it.

A Finnish sauna was used as a float in the Sesquicentennial parade. Jalmar Salvon, our lodge secretary represented the lodge at the Fort Clatsop dedication ceremonies in August. The Pep Club received two medals for its contribution to the "Sesqui" Fund and Elmer Sallila presented the medals to the lodge.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented this year to Ina Simila, Gust Luoma, Henry Niemi, Emil Riutta and Victor Savola.

Through the years the lodge has given a Christmas party for the children of members. Costs are defrayed by the income from coffee hours after the meetings.

Twenty-one members joined this year. Thirty members passed away.

1956. The Winlock Lodge Drill Team presented a program at Suomi hall on March 3.

Hilma Johnson became the new director of the Dramatic Club.

Old copies of the Finnish publication "Aamurusko" (morning-glow) and the meeting minutes of the Suomi Society were forwarded to the Finnish archives at Suomi College, Hancock, Michigan.

Two new electric ranges were purchased for the hall kitchen. The Pep Club paid the added wiring expense.

As the Grand Lodge Convention was held in Astoria, no salaries were paid to our delegates.

In August, Carl A. Nyquist, local Ford dealer who had purchased the lodge-owned garage on Duane Street, paid the last installment on the building. The sale price was $50,000.

Twenty-five dollars was donated to the Zion Lutheran Church building fund in September.

At the 70th anniversary program 50-year membership pins were presented to Oscar Pietila, Victor Burns, Charles Anet, Adolf Saari, Oscar Loukkula and Sulo Rytsala.

St. Mary Hospital celebrated its 100th anniversary in December and invited the Brotherhood members to attend the occasion.

The Entertainment committee sponsored a dance for Hungarian Relief which brought in $150. The lodge added another fifty dollars to the Fund. The Finnish Independence Day program receipts of $95 were sent to Finnish orphans.

Twenty-two members joined this year. Twenty-seven members were lost through death.

1957. In January, lodge member Hilja Wirkkala of Deep River, Washington, accidentally slipped and fell into a well and drowned.

A fund for a new baby grand piano for the hall was started by the Pep Club. Dinners and concerts were scheduled to help pay for the purchase. Cost of the purchase was $2,000.

A project for furnishing a Finnish Classroom in a new building at Portland State College is started by John O. Virtanen of Portland. The furnishings are to be imported from Finland, at a cost approximating $12,000. A committee of lodge members was named to work toward this project. Jack Konttas, Eva Ostman, Alvin and Bertha Salo, Hulda Wilhonen, Matt and Hazel Kujala and Henry and Jenny Niemi. Programs and Picnics were held, and a chartered bus took members to the Oaks Park in Portland where picnics were held yearly until the Classroom was dedicated in 1960. The room was beautifully furnished with Finnish objets d'art and furniture, but doubts about its being appreciated by the students arose when it became known that the lovely chairs were practically destroyed during their first year in use and had to be replaced with the regular American type.

The Pep Club donated $60 to the Band Boosters Fund for uniforms for the Astoria High School Band members.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to John Huhtanen, Jalmar Thompson, John Toyra, Anna Tormanen, Hilma Frankson and Charles J. Wirkkala.

Only three new members joined this year and twenty members passed away.

1958. The Pep Club earned $680 for the piano fund in December.

The lodge is asked to donate punch and cookies for the USO which is still open for the remaining servicemen in the area. Violinist Heimo Haitto and Erwin Anderson, Naselle, Washington, presented a concert at the hall in April. Dr. Waino Hoover of California showed pictures of his trip to Africa for the benefit of the Finnish Classroom Fund.

Nine members were recipients of the 50-year pins: Abram Hummasti, Kalle Jurvakainen, August Knuutila, John S. Niemi, Jack Niemi, Charles Bighill, William Bighill, Hilda Kauppi and Edith Pietila.

Thirty-nine new members joined this year. Twenty-one members passed away.

1959. This is the Centennial Year of the State of Oregon which acquired statehood on February 14, 1859. The lodge took part in the celebration in July by arranging a Finnish exhibit in the Elks building and appearing in the parade.

The Dramatic Club presented a play, "The Boardinghouse", in Astoria and at Hockinson, Washington, for the benefit of the Finnish Classroom.

The lodge donated labor for the building of a grandstand in Tapiola Park, and gave a $25 donation to the Regatta Smorgasette.

Charles Carlson was presented a ring bearing the Brotherhood symbol in appreciation for serving 24 years on the board of trustees.

To attract more members to the meetings, a $5 attendance prize was introduced. The prize was to increase by five dollars each month until someone won it, the limit being $100.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to John Salmela, Emmi Kokko, John K. Jackson, John Ostman, Erick Kasma, Emil Kandoll, Victor Smith and Martha Loukkula.

Sixteen members joined this year, and 23 were lost by death.

1960. A fifty-star American flag was donated to the lodge by Nick Warila in appreciation for his receiving the 50-year pin.

The regular lodge responsibilities, the Saturday night dances, the biweekly bingo games, and planning for the Central District Summer Festival kept the membership busy. The summer festival was held in the new Astoria High School and was enjoyed by visitors from far and near.

The Svensen Chapter of the lodge closed its books at the end of the year. It had served as an auxiliary unit since 1931.

Lydia Oja Hunters, Nick Warila, John Warila, Vaino Heino, Eino Kinnula, Edward Korsumaki, Andrew Markus and Alex Rinell received 50-year membership pins.

Only one junior member joined this year. Seventeen members were lost through death.

1961. The City of Astoria, founded by fur-traders in 1811, celebrated its Sesquicentennial year with a three-day celebration at Regatta time in August. Our lodge participated in the parade, and furnished twelve gallons of Finnish fruit soup to the Smorgasette, along with four members in Finnish national costume to help serve it.

This summer, members were haunted by the question: Do we lose the hall to The Bridge? Plans for the Astoria-Megler bridge were completed, and construction was to begin the following year. Several buildings had to be razed to make room for the approach, some of them in the neighborhood of the hall. Fears were allayed, however, when it was learned that the bridge approach pillars would be placed near to, but east of the hall.

Astoria Lodge Officers - 1961

Back Row: Gust Tormanen, William Mannila, John Kuivala, Vilho Perttu, Waino Kentala.

Second Row: Nancy Mattila, Elmer Piukkula, Paul Hummasti, Walter Anderson, Matt Kujala, Nick Warila, William Seeborg, Katri Sjoblom.

Front Row: Irma Hummasti, Hazel Kujala, Ida Holma, Anna Tormanen, Ellen Herlin and Olga Kentala.

Richard Riippe, 91, oldest member of Astoria Lodge #2 (joined in 1894) and youngest member, Neil Hummasti, 11, who joined in 1961 when this picture was taken.

Convention plans are being made by committee in charge: Left to right: William Seeborg, Nick Warila, Matt Kujala, Katri Sjoblom, Irma Hummasti, Elmer Piukkula, Hazel Kujala, Nancy Mattila, William Mannila, Ellen Herlin.

Junior members presented Folk Dances at the lodge's 75th Anniversary in 1961.
Front row, left to right: Meredyth Mattson, David Floyd, Aini Mattila, Eric Jonsson, Kathleen Niemelin, Wallace Hummasti, Kristina Niemelin, Toivo Lahti, Phyllis Moss, Carl Salo, Theresa Aho and Laura Erickson.
Back row: Heikki Ylipelto, Neil Hummasti, Gordon Hagglund, Arnold Hummasti, Jim Seloover, Trudy Hayrynen, Katrina Salo, Carol Huhta, Kai Sjoblom, George Hummasti and the counselors, Irma Hummasti and Anni Salo.

The lodge celebrated its Diamond Jubilee in November. At this significant milestone in our history, members could look back with satisfaction on seventy-five years of successful effort in alleviating the needs of our fellowman. The two-day event included a program at Suomi hall on Saturday evening and a dinner served at the High School cafeteria on Sunday. Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Heikki H. Eskola, Henry Kynsi, Victor Lundman, Kalle Paronen, Olga Pietarila, Anna (Ring) Rintala, Matt R. Wirkkala and Jonas Simonson.

Thirty-three new members joined during the year and twenty-two passed away.

(to be continued)

HISTORY OF ASTORIA
U.F.K.B.&S. LODGE NO. 2
1936 - 1979

(continued from last issue)

1962. The lodge membership on January 1 was 533.

Lodge activity this year followed its usual routine and was rather uneventful when compared with the previous festive year.

Fifteen gallons of the Finnish fruit soup and six or seven waitresses were requested by the Regatta Smorgasette committee.

On November 5 a minor earthquake shook the hall at 7:37 p.m., shortly after the meeting began.

The main speaker at the lodge's 76th anniversary program was Tauri Aaltio, Executive Secretary of Suomi Seura, Helsinki, Finland.

The annual contributions to the March of Dimes, the United Fund and Christmas Seals were made.

Five members joined this year and 11 members died.

1963. In June, Katrina Salo, a junior member, was chosen "Miss Astoria" and subsequently became a candidate in the "Miss Oregon" title contest.

Paul Dennis Thompson of our lodge was recommended for vice-consul of Finland for this area. Consul Tuure Mentula of San Francisco spoke at the Grand Lodge Officers' banquet at the Cinders restaurant.

Lodge President and Mrs. Walter Anderson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

Annual charter flights to Finland for members were in the planning stage.

At the 77th anniversary program 50-year membership pins were presented to Antti Eskola, Albert John Lonberg, Victor J. Maki, Gust Tormanen, John A. Nyman, John Henry Pietila, Emil M. Puskala, Matt Emil Kangas and Victor Palonen.

Ten new members joined this year. Twenty-five members passed away.

Trustees of Astoria Lodge in 1964

Back Row: Sulo Rinne, Andrew Huntus, Toivo Sjoblom, John Kuivala, Vilho Perttu.

Front Row: Charles Wirkkala, Jalmar Salvon, William Lammi, and Nick Warila.

1964. For the first time in the 78-year history of our lodge we had a woman president. Nancy Mattila had this distinct honor.

Richard Riippa received a gift from the lodge and was given a birthday party at Columbia Hospital, where he was a patient, on his 94th birthday.

William Seeborg received the Finnish Order of the Lion medal from the president of Finland. It was presented by Consul Tuure Mentula. Dennis Thompson was installed as Finland's vice-consul in Astoria.

The Central District Summer Festival was held in Astoria. Instead of the usual picnic on Sunday, the visitors enjoyed a banquet at the Cinders restaurant.

Leo Kustaa Happola, a member of the Finnish parliament and former Defense Minister, visiting here on a U.S. stipend, was happy to meet with Finns at the lodge meeting.

The Olympic Committee collected $107 for Finnish athletes.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to: Johannes Nikolai Eskola, Otto Lahtinen, Jalmar Salvon, Edward M. Gerttula, Albert Harrison, August Sunnerborg, Emanuel Kaunisto and Wayne Suomela.

Total Sewing Club income for the year was $1,400.

Nineteen members were added to the roll. Twenty-four members passed away.

1965. Our junior member, John Mattson, presented his watercolor painting of Fort Clatsop to the lodge. It was a pleasant reminder of the days in 1955 when men of the lodge helped build the replica of the Fort.

Finnish artists Lauri Ojala, Trumpeter, his sister Aili Rauhala, a kantele (zither) player, and Kaarlo Kultalahti gave performances in June and July.

The West Coast Finnish-American Singers Chorus was formed, and many Brotherhood members joined the group from Washington to California.

Congressman Wendell Wyatt spoke at the 79th anniversary observance of the lodge. Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Victor Ranta, Charles Roos, Axel Seaborg, Sophia Suominen, George Hill, Hjalmar Hurula, Peter Kari and Albert Lokan.

In December the Astoria High School Band presented a "Sibelius Memorial Concert" in which Boris Sirpo, famous director then living in Portland, participated. The Brotherhood furnished refreshments.

The Ilwaco Lodge, Ilwaco, Washington, which was established in 1926 and now had only nine members in good standing left, asked to merge with the Astoria Lodge. These members were gladly accepted with their property and cash of $2575 and welcomed into our group.

Seventeen members joined this year. Twenty-four members were lost through death.

1966. Veikko Ahvenainen, accordionist, and baritone Paul Oksman appeared in a concert.

Bingo income netted $1403 by July. The hall ceiling will be lowered and finished with tile.

The Sewing Club sponsored a dance on August 27 to mark the opening of the Astoria-Megler bridge across the Columbia River.

After the meeting on October 3, Captain Hilmer Johanson and First Mate Erkki Parkkari and fourteen sailors from

the Finnish freighter "Dafny" enjoyed a lunch of "viili" (a kind of yogurt) and salmon sandwiches, for which they were truly thankful.

At the 80th anniversary celebration Consul Dennis Thompson, in behalf of Mayor Harry Steinbock of Astoria, presented an award to the lodge in appreciation for the help the lodge had given the city throughout the years. Also, Miss Adeline Sather presented an award from the Retarded Children's Association. Eight members received 50-year membership pins: Jacob Aho, Antti Hahto, William Hendrickson, Charles Mackey, Karl Pakkala, Vaino Victor Ross, Oscar Jurmu and Charles Schadevitz. Charles Heikka and Anna Hawn died before the presentation date.

A lodge "Memorial Fund" was started. The name of a deceased member was to be engraved on a brass plate and placed on a plaque.

Only two members joined this year. For the third year in a row, 24 members passed away.

1967. Only three copies of our Brotherhood organization's Finnish 50-year history were left to be sold. A copy was sent to the Suomi Seura in Finland and an acknowledgement was received from Tauri Aaltio.

Richard Riippa, who observed his 97th birthday in February, asked no party be held in his honor this year as he would not be able to enjoy it. Brother Riippa died in June. He had been a member for 72 years.

Congressman Wendell Wyatt presented to the lodge a 50-star American flag that had flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C. He was also the speaker at the Finnish Independence Day program and had the celebration recorded in the Congressional Record, a copy of which he sent to the lodge.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented this year to: John Hakala, Frank O. Berg, Mandi Hietala Hanson, John V. Kivisto, Adolph Koski, John Kuivala, John Wm. Lamppa, Phoebe Rohola, Sulo Rinne, Senja Smith and Riika Soderman.

The lodge received 29 new members. For the fourth year in a row, 24 members died.

1968. The 96-member Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and the "Jussi Chorus" of sixty-two male singers presented concerts in Astoria, the former in March and the latter in October. The lodge was host to each group at a reception and dance after the concert. As many members as possible were housed in Finnish homes. The visitors thanked the Astorians for their hospitality, and the Orchestra members said this was the only city on their itinerary in which they were invited into homes and furnished a reception and gifts.

In May, forty-three Astorians made reservations on the Brotherhood and the Finnish-American Historical Society flight to Finland.

Throughout its history, the Astoria lodge has responded to civic needs. In recognition for its service to the community, the lodge emblem was accorded a space on the cornerstone of the new Junior High School.

Plans were started for the preservation of the Eric Lindgren pioneer home twenty miles from Seaside, Oregon. Mr. Lindgren built the home himself, using only hand tools to fashion the logs and lumber. Professor C.G. Davis, an architect at Portland State University, noted the unique construction method and said the building should be preserved. Vandals had already been at work in the deserted homestead. The Clatsop County Court became involved in the project and suggested the dwelling and sauna be moved to Cullaby Lake, where the County owned 300 acres in a natural setting. Opinions favoring Tapiola Park as a better site were expressed, but the area was declared too small, and besides, the County Court could not take part in that area. By July the Lindgren home logs were marked and ready for transportation to Seaside for storage until the foundation was prepared. Men of the Brotherhood were deeply involved in this project which took several years to complete.

The Grand Lodge Convention held in Astoria on September 5-6-7 was an outstanding success.

The Sewing Club donated new tables for the diningroom.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented this year to: Walter Anderson, Vaino S. Bolvi, Jalmer Kakela, Herman Koivisto, Charles Loukas, Vaino Perttunen, Olga Pulkinen, and Jennie R. Wirkkunen.

Ten new members joined this year, and 14 were lost through death.

1969. Ida Takalo, who passed away last year, had willed her estate to the Astoria lodge. The final sum was $7,602. Half-yearly interest was paid on this amount to her step-son until he became eligible for pension.

No meeting was held on January 20 because of a severe snowstorm that evening.

The Helsinki YMCA Choir gave a concert in Astoria on April 11. Lodge members provided help at the banquet and in housing the singers.

A monthly "Penny Bingo" afternoon with free lunch was sponsored by the Sewing Club. This popular diversion for the older folk was carried on until May of 1974, when it was banned by state law.

Fulfilling the wish of deceased member Isaac Hjalmar Hurula, the lodge held a Memorial Service for him on May 24. President Thomas Mattson conducted an impressive service. Sylvia Oja and Faith Swanson furnished the songs and music. Members of the family were present from Sequim, Washington, where the deceased had lived.

A wheelchair and a walker were donated to Crestview Convalescent Center, the chair to be used by a member if confined there. Memorial Fund money was used for this purpose.

At the 83rd anniversary program Margie Huhta, "Miss Oregon," sang a vocal solo and reported on the "Miss America" pageant held in Atlantic City. Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Ellen Anderson, Lillie Anderson, Ilma Anderson, Olga Jaakkola, Anna Jarvi, Aino Johnson, Anna Kinnula, Hilda Leaf, Christine Loback, Signe Wilson and Matt Waltari.

Thirteen new members joined the lodge. Seventeen members passed away.

Irma Hummasti became the editor of "Veljeysviesti" upon the death of Frans Leskela, editor and Grand Lodge Secretary, on December 5, 1969.

1970. A letter was received in January from First Lieut. David Martin (unknown to us) in Vietnam in which he thanked the lodge for the Ditty Bag he had received for Christmas through the Red Cross. He said it felt wonderful to know that people cared. The letter warmed the hearts of all of us. The lodge donated $20 yearly to the Red Cross for the bags.

The Lindgren home restoration was renewed in May. The County Court promised to provide concrete if men could be found to do the work. An appeal for help was sent to the Carpenters' Union. With men from their group and from our lodge, fourteen in all, the project progressed to the extent that the roof was finished during the summer. Ladies of our lodge and the Kaleva Lodge furnished a smorgasbord luncheon for the men. Reuben Jensen of Astoria took TV pictures of the restoration.

Prize winner Sauna Float in Scandinavian Festival parade.

The lodge took part in the annual Scandinavian Festival parade and our sauna float received commendable notice. The ever-popular Finnish foods sold in a booth ran out before the day was over. Sirpa Perkiomaki, our "Miss Finland" candidate, won the "Miss Scandinavia" title.

A group of seven Rotary Club members from Finland were guests of the lodge on September 7. The men said they were glad to see so many Finns, a privilege they had not had in other cities.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Katri Alskog, Aina Roos, Olga Suominen, Andrew Merila, Markakreeta (Maggie) Ranta, Joseph Saari, Fanny Toyra and Hannah Niemela at the 84th anniversary observance of the lodge.

The Finnish Independence Day program, given jointly with the Ladies and Knights of Kaleva, brought in $52 which was sent to Finland's orphans.

A Memorial Service was held in Suomi hall for Anna M. Hurula on December 12, similar to a service for her late husband in 1969. Chaplain Thomas Mattson officiated.

A Grand Lodge Brotherhood Scholarship check was presented to Astoria Jari Saavalainen at the annual Christmas party. Jari was a student at a School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C.

Eighteen new members joined this year. Twenty-five members were lost through death.

1971. The Astoria lodge emblem which had hung on its rod in the hall since the lodge was established, began to show signs of wear. The material under the painted eagle was shredding and it became evident the banner could no longer be carried outdoors in a parade. The type of workmanship done on the original could no longer be duplicated in this day and age, so a new method to reproduce the design had to be found. Fortunately, Mr. Elmer Reiter of "Elmer's Flag and Banner Shop" of Portland was able to solve the problem. The design, done in stitchery in colors matching the original values, is a beautiful duplicate of the work done in paint by an unknown artist almost ninety years ago.

The eight stars in the emblem were an enigma to present-day members until John Prepula explained that they stood for the eight provinces in Finland from where the early members came.

It was decided to present the 50-year membership pin to the recipient on the date he or she joined the lodge. This change was necessitated by the fact that several members died before they could receive the pin at the anniversary observance. However, all would be honored at the November celebration.

The Bowling Team brought the Championship Trophy to the lodge this year.

The Scandinavian Festival grew bigger and better every year and Melissa Hill, "Miss Finland," won the "Miss Scandinavia" title. Our fishing-boat float won a second prize in the parade, and brother Urho Koski won the $2,000 cottage on which chances were sold.

The lodge bought and donated four wheelchairs, two to Columbia Hospital and two to Crestview Nursing Center, with money from the Memorial Fund.

The financial secretary reported that all of the Brotherhood graves in Greenwood Cemetery were now sold.

A speaker at the 85th anniversary program was Colonel Delbert Bjork of Astoria, former attache in the American Embassy in Finland. He had received Finland's Order-of-the-White-Rose medal in 1967. Ernest Kerola and John Palo were presented 50-year membership pins this year.

Walter Mattila wrote the history of Astoria boardinghouses and the Socialist Hall activities. These, and other Mattila publications, were to be sold for one dollar, the receipts of sales to go toward the Lindgren home restoration project.

The lodge decided to meet once a month on the second Monday, and on fifth Mondays, on a trial basis beginning with the new year.

Only six new members joined this year. In the history of our lodge, the largest number of members passed away this year. Our Charter was draped 34 times in memory of the sisters and brothers.

1972. Since the Sunday bingo games were not as successful as they had been previously, the games were discontinued.

At the Scandinavian Festival Rhonda Lammi won the third "Miss Scandinavia" title for the Finns; Elli Stenholm won a trip for two to Reno in the drawing, and the sale of Finnish foods brought in $107 for the lodge.

In Walter Mattila's 68-page booklet about "Theatre Finns" the Astoria theatre of earlier days was well represented. Great plays and light operas were the usual entertainment fare for the Finns before the prevalence of nightly moving-picture shows. The booklet sold for $2.

The Bowling Team again brought in the first prize trophy to the lodge; the Veikko Ahvenainen accordion concert in March and the Tapio Rautavaara concert in October were enjoyed by large audiences. Elina Sotka, the only member to receive a 50-year pin, died in December. The lodge donated $25 to the Astoria YMCA swimming-pool fund and $50 to the U.F.K.B.&S. scholarship fund.

Only four new members joined during the year. Twenty members passed away.

1973. John Colin, from the University of Denver, Walter Mattila, and Larry Skoog of the Finnish-American Historical Society of Oregon visited the lodge and showed an interest in our library and other artifacts. Professor Michael Passi of Portland State University gave a talk on early Finnish settlers and their interest in social life and associations. President Prepula presented an old picture of Eugene Debs to Historical Society representative Skoog which he gratefully accepted in behalf of the Society. Later, the Society presented the lodge with a picture of Suomi Hall taken while the building was still on Alameda Avenue.

The Portland Finnish-American Historical Society has been interested in the restoration of the Lindgren home. A $5,000 donation during the Bicentennial Year for the project has been requested.

The Scandinavian Festival plans demanded more and more time and effort on the part of the committee members. Our "parade sauna" was made into a summer cottage for the festival float and won the Sweepstakes Trophy; Judy Angberg, "Miss Finland," became the fourth candidate to win the "Miss Scandinavia" title; and the Finns won the tug-of-war, a major event at the Festival. Our lodge bought charm bracelets for all of the "Miss Scandinavia" contestants.

At the 87th anniversary celebration Dr. and Mrs. Airas of Helsinki appeared on the program. Fifty-year membership pin recipients honored on this occasion were Sanna Wiita, Walter Paavola, Fanny Pernu, Sofia Thompson, Hellin Hill and Jennie Maunula.

In December, indoor-outdoor carpeting was laid in the dining room and on the stairs.

Nineteen new members joined this year. Seventeen members were lost through death.

1974. The "Midnight Suns," a well-known male singing group from Portland that has entertained the Scandinavian Festival crowds these past summers, appeared at Suomi hall in March. "Turuttaret," a group of famous variety artists from Turku, Finland, presented a concert and played for two dances. These girls were so well-liked they were invited for a return engagement in November.

The $5 meeting-attendance prize was made permanent and was to be given at each meeting to the holder of the lucky ticket.

Linda Sjoblom, our "Miss Finland," became the runner-up in the "Miss Scandinavia" contest. Our lodge again won the prize for the best float in the Festival parade.

The male choir "Chorus Cantorum Finlandiae" or, the "Choir or Cantors in the Finnish Evangelical Church," presented a splendid concert at the High School on October 6. Lodge members helped provide lodging for the singers.

Manning the booth at the Scandinavian Festival, Aili Winters, Helen Kaakinen and Katri Sjoblom.

Selma Joki, Uuno Sjoroos, Josephine Niemi and Sylvia Eskola were honored at the 88th anniversary observance of the lodge. They had all received their pins earlier in the year.

Grand Lodge President Ed Hagelberg sent word to the lodges to bring each lodge history up-to-date so that all would be completed in time for the Grand Lodge's 75th anniversary in 1975.

Only four new members joined during the year and twelve members passed away.

1975. Mayor Bob Chopping of Astoria designated February 28 as "Kalevala Day" in the city, and suggested that a memorial of some kind be erected to honor the Finnish pioneers of the area. A Kalevala Day program arranged jointly by our lodge and the Ladies of Kaleva on March 1 raised $149 for our Scholarship Fund. Our vice-president Anni Salo prepared a Finnish meal in honor of Kalevala Day, to the delight of everyone who was able to attend. The Clatsop Community College library was presented a copy of the Finnish epic "Kalevala" and Dr. John Kolehmainen's new book, "Epic of the North," as gifts from our lodge.

President Ed Hagelberg again stressed the importance of getting the history ready for publication this year, the organization's Jubilee Year. He informed the lodge that chances on prizes would be sold and a drawing held at the anniversary celebration to be held in Astoria in November, the proceeds to be used to pay publishing costs.

In June, Keijo Virtanen of Turku University, microfilmed old minutes and important papers of the lodge for the Finnish-American archives in the university.

Karen Niemi, "Miss Finland," was chosen "Miss Scandinavia" at the midsummer festival and was crowned by Linda Sjoblom who presided in the absence of the previous year's winner. The Finns won the tug-of-war trophy.

The Sewing Club worked diligently on the handmade quilt on which chances would be sold.

The Lindgren home restoration was to have been completed by our Bicentennial year, but a shortage of funds, rising costs and acts of vandalism prevented its completion.

Committees, which were named early in the year, made preparations for the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Grand Lodge and the 89th Anniversary of the Astoria Lodge on November 14, 15, and 16.

The three-day celebration was a gala event, with the impressive decorations putting everyone into a festive mood. Friday evening, a three-act Finnish play titled "Katupeilin Takana" (Behind the Street Mirror), presented by Astoria lodge members under the direction of Kyllikki Ylipelto, depicted life in the 1890's. It was a superb performance. The Saturday evening program featured an address by Grand Lodge President Ed Hagelberg and a Bicentennial Salute to the United States. Refreshments included two birthday cakes appropriately decorated for the occasion with our emblem—one for the Grand Lodge and one for the Astoria Lodge. Dancing followed. The celebration was concluded by a banquet on Sunday, served at 1:30 in Suomi hall. Finnish Consul General Veikko O. Huttunen, who came from San Francisco, was featured speaker. Truly, beautiful memories were left in the minds of those who were able to attend this commemoration! Net income for the publication of the Grand Lodge history was $1,586 from the three-day event.

Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Maria Matson, Ellen Herlin, and Helmi Peterson, but none of the

Officers of Astoria Lodge #2, 1976

honored was able to be present at the anniversary celebration.

In October, Astoria lodge members, thirty strong, chartered a bus to take them on a surprise visit to the Aberdeen lodge on its anniversary. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all.

A pleasant surprise for the Finns of the Lower Columbia area was a lovely Christmas radio program arranged by members of the lodge and Ladies of Kaleva and broadcast by station KAST in Astoria.

Only five new members joined the lodge this year. Ten members passed away.

Total membership of the lodge on December 31, 1975 was 325.

1976. Lodge meetings since 1971 were held on the second and fifth Mondays. In June the lodge decided to meet twice a month to encourage attendance, but as the latter declined, rather than improved, it was decided to return to the former schedule next year.

This was the Bicentennial Year of the United States, and our lodge activities reflected this fact. Regular activities such as dances, dinners and bazaars went on as usual.

Early in the year the dramatic club was invited by the Berkeley lodge to present the play, "Katupeilin Takana" in their hall. A repeat performance was also given in Astoria.

The noted Finnish magician Al Dante and his wife from Finland provided an evening of astonishing entertainment for an appreciative audience.

The lodge participated in the Scandinavian Festival in June. This annual event in Astoria is getting bigger and better. Our "Miss Finland," Kim Tinner, was crowned "Miss Scandinavia," and the Finns won the tug-of-war. A pot-luck dinner at Suomi Hall concluded the festivities.

The lodge hoped to hold a local Bicentennial Festival together with the Swedish and Norwegian groups, but as this was not possible, we held one by ourselves.

The "Loma Laulajat" (Vacation Singers) from Finland presented a concert.

New American and Finnish flags. 3' x 5', were purchased for the lodge. This size is more suitable for carrying in parades.

Sister Linda Sjoblom received a $200 scholarship presented by the Grand Lodge at the convention held in Kelso, Washington.

Jenny Niemi finished the compilation of our 50-year history and that of the last forty years, in English.

Fifty year gold membership pins were presented to the following: Tyyni Hill (Raymond, Wash.), Alma Leback (Ilwaco), Fanny Mattila, Hilma Miller, Helmi Kari, Hilja Savel and Oscar Kairala. The last three were presented their pins at a coffee-hour sponsored by the lodge at Crestview Care Center where they are patients.

An event of major significance took place on November 13 when our lodge celebrated its 90th anniversary with an excellent program. Suomi Hall was filled with joyful members and friends, including a bus-load from Aberdeen. The Portland Finnish Choir directed by Sarah Slossar sang several numbers, greetings from other lodges and the Grand Lodge officers were presented, and a commemorative plaque from the City of Astoria was presented to the lodge by Mayor Bob Chopping.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a historical sketch of the lodge in pageant form, depicting the lives of the Finnish immigrants, their hopes and fears and their early struggles to find protection and security. The immigrants formed an organization which culminated in the formation of the Brotherhood as we know it today.

Interspaced with poems, dances, group songs and solos, the production was truly a grand salute to the men and women who have preceded us in the organization. Our gratitude goes to sister Kyllikki Ylipelto who was the author, director and narrator of this fine production. A synopsis of the sketch in English was provided for those who could not understand the Finnish language.

The program was followed by refreshments and dancing.

Eleven new members joined this year. Thirteen members passed away.

1977. Lodge activities this year centered around routine procedures. In her annual report the secretary regretted that attendance and enthusiasm had waned and that the lodge duties were in the hands of the faithful few. Means of attracting new members have not been found.

The year began with a New Year's dance which was well attended. Other activities throughout the year included the second presentation of the anniversary pageant. Valentine and Kalevala Day programs were held, the proceeds from the latter being donated to the scholarship fund; dinners, a bread sale and a rummage sale were held; work was done on the Lindgren pioneer home; the annual picnic was rained out from the Salo farm and moved to the Svensen Finn Hall; a general housecleaning from basement to attic was done in Suomi Hall; the annual Christmas party with its rice pudding, tarts, and Santa Claus was held; Christmas gifts were distributed to the sick and shut-ins; two chartered bus trips were made, one to Aberdeen and the other to Portland to attend their anniversary programs; the chorus from Lahti, Finland; and Hilkka Kinnunen and Victor Klimenko with their group presented concerts.

Fifty-year gold pins were presented to Ida Holm, Hilja Mackie and Irma Hummasti.

The trustees had new gas heaters installed in the hall and downstairs to reduce heating bills.

We were unable to get any new members this year. Twelve members died.

1978. Activities this year followed the usual pattern of social events and concern for our sick and needy members.

The sewing club was kept busy throughout the year making various articles and piecing a beautiful quilt that was raffled with good results during the fall bazaar.

The lodge men served a Mother's Day Dinner to members before the regular meeting in May, and the women reciprocated in like manner before the June meeting by honoring the fathers.

A women's gymnastic group was organized in the spring, but after a few weeks it disbanded due to lack of interest.

Monthly dues for regular members were raised from 25 cents to 50 cents.

Paivi Nauha represented us as "Miss Finland" in the Scandinavian Festival. Members of the lodge again served Finnish foods which sold very well.

A new microphone was bought, and more loudspeakers were installed in the hall. A leaking roof posed a problem for the trustees as labor costs and materials had risen considerably due to inflation.

Eight members, all of them women, received 50-year pins during the year. They were: Anna Huntus, Lydia Karna, Hilma Tokola, Lizzie Kamula, Vieno Huhtala, Inez Risto, Mary Jernstrom and Hulda Warila. Two of the recipients, Anna Huntus and Hilma Tokola, were called to rest before the year ended.

Ten new members were welcomed, and several of them became very active in the lodge for which we were grateful.

We are always saddened when active, dedicated members pass away and we miss them. We felt the loss of seventeen members.

1979. The regular activities of the lodge were carried on by the small group attending the meetings. However, those who did not attend meetings gladly helped when called to do so. The years were taking a toll of the membership, and many formerly active members were either housebound or in nursing homes.

The main concern of the trustees this year was the remodeling of the first floor of the building to accommodate the Palo Department Store, a tenant of many years. The firm had wanted to rent the entire area and, as the lease of the other occupant expired, the change was made. The building roof also was renewed.

The lodge-owned plots at the Riverview and Svensen cemeteries posed a problem, as few members have been buried there in recent times. Saplings and blackberry vines persisted in growing and covering the area. Very few, if any, of the relatives of the deceased were left to attend to the graves, so a committee was named to look after the matter.

In June the Joensuu Choir from Finland presented a beautiful concert at the Clatsop College Performing Arts Center. Lodge members provided housing for the singers.

Lisa Piukkula was our choice for "Miss Finland" this year. She was a runner-up in the "Miss Scandinavia" contest at the Festival and thereby became the "Lucia Bride" at the Festival of Lights in December. Lodge members arranged several artistic Finnish exhibits in the windows of business buildings downtown for the festival, receiving much favorable comment from tourists and townspeople.

Four members, who had received 50-year pins during the year, were honored at the 93rd anniversary program. They were William Seeborg, Aliina Lalli, Ellen Kairala and Wayne Aho.

Four young members joined the lodge this year, for which we are thankful. Young blood is sorely needed if the organization is to continue. Ten formerly active members passed away.

Total membership on December 31, 1979, was 263.

In this 93-year history of Astoria Lodge #2 we have brought out only the highlights in our activities. We can look backward with pride on the accomplishments of the Finnish immigrants and their descendants while promoting the ideals of Brotherhood in a new homeland.

Jenny E. Niemi
Astoria, Oregon

HISTORY OF ASTORIA LODGE NO. 2 SVENSEN CHAPTER

An auxiliary unit known as the Svensen Chapter of Astoria Lodge No. 2 was formed on September 18, 1931, at a meeting held in the home of A. Eskelin.

The purpose of the unit was to give the Astoria lodge members living in the area an opportunity to work for the lodge. The distance from Astoria, at times the weather, and in no small degree the effects of the Depression kept Svensen members away from the Astoria meetings.

The unit met once a month, usually in the Grange Hall which they rented for nine to twelve dollars per year.

Coffee hours, dances, and picnics were arranged to raise funds for the Brotherhood. The yearly net income was transferred to the Astoria lodge.

The Redman Lodge, which owned a cemetery in the area, asked the unit to take over the property. The Svensen unit agreed to do so, and after receiving the deed to the cemetery, renamed it the "Forest Hill Cemetery." Improvements, such as a fence and a toolshed, were added to the property. Single graves originally sold for $7, or three for $15. Five dollars was charged for opening and closing a grave.

Astoria lodge summer picnics were often held in conjunction with the Svensen group, the members often traveling there in their fishing boats.

During the Depression years the Astoria lodge Sewing Club often asked the Svensenites for fruits and vegetables to sell at their annual fall fazaar. In 1937 chickens were requested and fourteen were delivered.

The Svensen members often helped the Grange make repairs and improvements on the hall. In 1934 the helpers received ten cents an hour. Any income in those years was welcome.

Admittance prices to the dances were quite reasonable, 35 cents for the men and 15 cents for the women. Music was usually furnished by the Salminen-Maunula-Ingersoll orchestra.

Coffee hours, bingo games, and a dinner held at the Paul Hummasti home netted $612 for Finnish Relief. The Suomi hall building fund received a donation of $154.30.

In 1959, a long-time member, Mrs. Anna Nelman, celebrated her 100th birthday. A reception was held in her honor at Zion Lutheran Church in Astoria. Three hundred persons attended.

As the Svensen unit never was very large, the membership varied between twenty and thirty members. The offices were held in rotation, mostly by the same members year after year.

Serving as chairmen were: Victor Savola, John Lahti, Jack Aho, J. Mattson, F. Arnio, Alex Lindfors, Konsta Ruonala, Jacob Konttas, and William Pitkanen.

Serving as secretary were: Alex Lindfors, Axel Lund, Victor Savola, Abram Hummasti; and Axel Lund served at one time as financial secretary.

Serving as treasurer were: Edla Lund, John Lahti, Carl Ojala and Fanny Salmi.

Auditors were: Victor Savola, Abram Hummasti, Helmi Orava, Sofia Salminen and Jane Nelman.

Abram Hummasti was the "Veljeysviesti" agent.

The membership gradually dwindled to just a few. The minutes of the last meeting held on December 15, 1960, state simply that "the unit was being disbanded for the reason that the ranks were thinning out and the young members wanted to attend the Astoria meetings."

Jenny E. Niemi

Members Who Served as Officers 1936-1979

(Numbers in parentheses show number of years served, not necessarily consecutive years.)

President: Frank Jaakkola, Nick Warila (11); Richard Wirkkunen, Walter Anderson (7), Alvin Salo (5), Gust Saxberg (2), Matt Kujala, Nancy Mattila (3), Ed Niska (4), Thomas Mattson, Anni Salo (5), John Prepula (2).

Vice President: Victor Burns, Santeri Laakso, Anna Anderson (2), John Puranen, John Raitanen (3), Olga Pietarila (2), Victor Silver, Alex Parhaniemi, Walter Anderson (3), Fred Rabell (3), Bertha Salo, Alvin Salo, Sophia Thompson, Gust Saxberg (2), Matt Kujala (2), Paul Hummasti, Fanny Toyra, Arne Jylha, Thomas Mattson, Anni Salo (3), John Prepula (2), Katri Sjoblom (2), Kyllikki Ylipelto (3).

Jr. Vice President: Hilja Niemi, Olga Pietarila (3), Olga Jaakkola, Emma Maki (2), Elli Jouppila, Sophia Thompson, Alex Parhaniemi, Ilma Anderson (2), Anna Tormanen, Fred Rabell (2), Selma Joki, Bertha Salo (3), Matt Kujala (2), Ralph Mattila (4), Paul Hummasti, Ed Niska, Fanny Toyra, Anni Salo, Ted Stokes, Katri Sjoblom (2), Eino Johnson, Esther Paavola, Annikki Johnson (2), Senja Juusola (2), Viola Abrahamson.

Financial Secretary: Charles Wirkkala (14), John E. Piukkula (23).

Recording Secretary: Sven Lonberg (10), William Seeborg (11), Jalmar Salvon (6), Irma Hummasti (8), Jenny Niemi (3).

Treasurer: Matt Pietarila (9), Henry Niemi, John Piukkula (5), Laura Riippa, Eva Ostman Pincetich (7), Esther Juntti (4), Nancy Mattila (5), Irma Hummasti (10).

Conductor: Jack Junnikkala, Anna Sauvola (5), Phoebe Rohola (3), Sophia Thompson (3), Aina Kaakinen, Sandra Peltola, Esther Manners (2), Hazel Kujala (3), Esther Paavola (5), Katri Sjoblom (3), Ted Stokes (1), Elise Hummasti (4).

Doorkeepers: Henry Teppo (3), August Simila, Ida Kautto, John Salmela (3), Ida Maki (2), Theodore Rinella, Tilda Asikainen (3), John Hauru, Arvid Hakala (2), Kalle Paakkola (4), Christine Loback, Ida Hammar (3), Ida Sabutski, Veikko Leppinen, Oscar Salmela, Olga Axelson (3), Anna Tormanen (4), Ida Holma (5), Esther Johnson (6), Hilma Miller (3), Linda Tuomi, Elise Hummasti, Elli Stenholm, John Kivisto, Anna Mikkola, Tyyne Francki, Senja Juusola, Esther Paavola, Ralph Mattila.

Auditors: Charles Laity (2), John Penttila, Martha Viuhkola (2), Andrew Huntus (3), John Piukkula, Chas. K. Johnson, Sophia Thompson, Arvo Salo, Charles Sabutski, Olga Axelson (2), Evi Basel, Jalmar Thompson, Alvin Salo, Bertha Salo (2), Eleanor Leppinen, Jenny Niemi (2), Mae Sallila, Olga Kentala (3), Helena Perttu (4), Helen Rogers (3), Irene Koski (1), Emma Bachi, Helen Tanner, Viola Abrahamson, Raili Vedenoja (2), Helen Kaakinen, Naimi Koskelo.

Trustees: Urban Laine, Jacob Konttas, Paul Thompson, Richard Wirkkunen, Charles Carlson, Arvo Niemi, Henry Niemi (2), Charles Sabutski, F.W. Jaakkola (2), John Niemela, Toivo Johnson, John Kuivala (6), August Lipponen, Walter Anderson (2), Chas. K. Johnson, John Laity, William Eilo, Frank Smith, John Anderson (2), Jalmar Rohola (2), Arvi Leppinen (2), Charles Carlson (5), August Simila (3), Jalmar Salvon (5), Axel Manninen, Kalle Paakkola, William Seeborg, August Suominen, Paul Hummasti (3), Toivo Sjoblom (6), Frank Dixon, Elmer Sallila, Dennis Thompson (2), Gust Tormanen (2), Einar Ranta, Ralph Mattila (2), Vilho Perttu (4), John Kivisto, Waino Kentala, Nick Warila (4), William Mannila (2), Andrew Huntus (2), William Lammi (3), Charles Wirkkala (2), Sulo Rinne (3), Ed Rogers, John Johnson (5), Werner Wuori, Fanny Toyra, Edwin Ikaheimo, Frank Niemi (2), Frank Dixon, Urho Koski (2), Richard Aho (4), Eino Johnson (3), Edwin Niska, Alvin Salo, Ernest Kerola, Taisto Ojala (3), Katri Sjoblom (3), Olavi Nauha (2), Esther Paavola (2), Olli Pahkala (2), Arnold Bay.

Chaplain: Hazel Kujala (2), Olga Axelson, Fanny Toyra, Nick Warila, Arvid Leppinen (3), Walter Anderson (2), Thomas Mattson (3), Esther Paavola (2), Arvo Salo (3).

Elder: Ed Ek, Frank Jaakkola (6), Nick Warila (7), Walter Anderson (5), Alvin Salo (7), Matt Kujala, Nancy Mattila (2), Edwin Niska (2), Thomas Mattson (2), Anni Salo (2), John Prepula (3).

(Trustees and Auditors signify terms, rather than years, in most cases. Length of term — 3 years.)

Officers for Year 1980: Elder, Anni Salo, President, Viola Abrahamson; Vice-President, Kyllikki Ylipelto; Jr. Vice-President, Toivo Sjoblom; Financial Secretary, John E. Piukkula; Secretary, Ellen Niemi; Treasurer, Nancy Mattila; Conductress, Betty Hummasti; Chaplain, Tom Mattson; Doorkeeper, Ralph Mattila; Auditors, Helen Kaakinen, Naimi Koskelo and Raili Vedenoja; Trustees, Richard Aho, Urho Koski, Olli Pahkala, Sulo Rinne, Hannes Saavalainen, Arnold Bay, Olavi Nauha, Katri Sjoblom and Taisto Ojala.

END

FORT BRAGG BROTHERHOOD AND FINNISH SETTLEMENT HISTORY

1896 — 1936

(Translation)

Fort Bragg was named in memory of Braxton Bragg, who established a military post on Mendocino Indian Reservation during the Mexican War. The city of Fort Bragg is young—scarcely older than our lodge. This area was proclaimed an Indian Reservation in 1857 and was evacuated and totally abandoned by 1867. The land was then opened for settlement at $1.25 an acre with a limit of 640 acres per person.

Mendocino County History mentions that the first white man here was William Kasten, who made himself a cabin of round logs. He could very well have been a Finn, but history does not mention his nationality or whether he had a sauna.

The year 1885 is the beginning of the history of the city of Fort Bragg. At that time a lumber mill was moved here from Ten-Mile River. The Fort Bragg Redwood Company was formed, and later it was re-named Union Lumber Company. A mill was built and put into operation November 15, 1885. In 1889 the city of Fort Bragg was incorporated.

By this time, 1889, hundreds of Finns had settled here or in the near vicinity. When the streets of Fort Bragg were laid, working with the surveyors was August Rantala, a member of Fort Bragg Kalevala Lodge.

Working in the woods and sawmill was very hazardous. There were no laws requiring safer working conditions or compensation for injuries. An injured worker paid for his hospitalization and doctor bills. Very often collections were taken, or other means were used to raise funds for financial aid for the injured. These circumstances made the workers realize that something should be done to improve their situation. On November 21, 1896, a group gathered at Lännen Toivon Temperance Hall. The discussion led to the organization of a benefit society, and it was named Kalevala Veljeys Seura. Twenty-four members joined that evening. A few of these were members of English-speaking lodges and were accustomed to social activities and the aims of a benefit society.

A few years prior to this meeting, in 1882, San Francisco had organized the California Brotherhood. Hearing of Fort Bragg's intentions, they made an offer to Fort Bragg to join them. It was discussed at the November 28, 1896 meeting, just a week after Fort Bragg's organization. At that time it was tabled. Five new members joined the new lodge.

In the meeting held December 12, the members decided to rent the Odd Fellows Hall for their meeting place for $5 a month. At the same meeting, discussion arose about joining the California Brotherhood. It was unanimously rejected. A committee of three was chosen to apply for a State Charter. It was granted and bears the date November 21, 1896.

First Officers of Fort Bragg Kalevala Brotherhood Lodge Back row: Geo. Williams, Wm. Lumijarvi, Herman Berkovits, and Ludwig Engroos. Front row: James Martin, H.G. Anderson, Pete Peterson, Andrew Johnson, and Frank Cask.

By December 30, the treasury had grown, and it was decided the treasurer should be bonded for $500 and the secretary for $100. By the end of 1896, the lodge had been active less than two months and had $244.50 in cash and a membership of 42. During this period, Henry Anderson acted as chairman and James Martin as secretary.

The lodge seal was received on February 10, 1897. On February 24 the first member, John Ranta, was reported ill. At the same meeting a committee for social activities was formed. On March 3 John Ranta was reported well. The Constitution Committee, appointed on January 13, 1897, had finished its task. The Constitution was read and approved. The first 45 regalia were finished and put into use. The first social gathering was held on March 31. The minutes mention only that it was a fun and benefit affair. The proceeds amounted to $129.70 and expenses totaled $39.35, leaving a profit of $92.35.

At the first meeting in April, Chas. Aulin and Jacob Hill received the first benefit money, each receiving $4.

A special meeting was held April 12, 1897, concerning the death of the first lodge member, Gust Maliin. There are no details as to the cause of death or what action was taken. He had not been on the sick list. Since his belongings were gotten from the lumber camp, it is assumed his death was due to an accident in the woods. His name was spelled many different ways—when he was accepted as a member, when he paid his dues, and when he died. It appeared as Melin, Malin, Meliin, and Meleen.

On April 14, 1897, the lodge purchased a plot in the cemetery.

The treasurer's and secretary's report for the first six months of 1897 was as follows:

Balance from 1896	$244.50
Initiation Fees	115.00
Dues	430.90
Total	790.40
Expenses for 6 months	336.20
Balance	$454.20

After the July 6 meeting, a joint initiation was held by the Brotherhood and Sisterhood lodges. The latter had been organized on March 12, 1897. Each member could bring a guest. Then followed music, singing, and poetry reading. Supper was served, followed by more program and finally, dancing late into the night. Everyone went home satisfied.

On September 1, a seven-member committee was selected to make arrangements for obtaining a state charter. On June 22, 1898, we received a lodge banner. On December 31, the first play, *Myllärin Naiminen,* was presented. Profit from this play amounted to $26.75.

At the first meeting in January, 1899, it was reported that the treasury had over a thousand dollars. In the first two years, the growth had been slow but steady. In the beginning there were many extra expenses, particularly for the seamstresses and makers of the regalia and initiation paraphernalia. The Kalevala Brotherhood had written original initiation and installation ceremonies. Although quite short, they were partly entertaining and partly serious. The ceremonies were based upon paganistic rituals of the early Finnish people.

(to be continued)